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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat News Briefing on Dialogue With Israel

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22 Sep 89 pp 1, 8

[By 'Arafat] al-Kutani]

[Text] In a hot and frank encounter with Israeli journalists, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Dialogue under international legitimacy should lead to just and comprehensive peace. Therefore, I call upon the Israeli leadership to start a dialogue with me for the sake of establishing peace in the region.

The Palestinian leader denied Israeli journalists' claim that Palestinians are engaged in terrorist operations, saying, I reject murder. He then asked them: Why do you talk about terrorism when you are killing our children? So far, 953 martyrs have fallen in the intifadah [uprising], many of them children under 12. 'Arafat wept as he spoke about these martyrs.

President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat held a round of talks yesterday at the presidency. Following this meeting, 'Arafat held a news conference which was attended by Egyptian journalists and representatives of Egyptian and world news agencies and television networks. Some 18 Israeli journalists representing all Israeli media also attended the news conference. The interview was marked by hot discussions, and many questions were posed by the Israelis to the extent that the news conference sounded like a Palestinian-Israeli negotiation meeting. The Israeli journalists sounded as though they were speaking on behalf of their government. 'Arafat appealed to their humanity. His eyes were full of tears when he spoke about the young Palestinians who are being killed every day.

The news conference, which lasted 1 whole hour, was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry. When 'Arafat sat to face the world press his first remark was: This is not a news conference, but an ambush.

The first question to 'Arafat was: Do you agree to attending a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and what are your conditions?

'Arafat said: First of all, when the Palestine National Council approved our initiative, it entrusted me to declare it before the United Nations. I did this from the UN center in Geneva and called on the Israeli leadership to start a dialogue to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region, and to implement this peace under UN sponsorship.

An Israeli journalist interrupted: Abu 'Ammar [Yasser 'Arafat], it is known that you do not hold news conferences. Why are you holding this news conference today?

'Arafat, laughing: This is not true. I always hold news conferences when I am in Egypt.

Question from an Israeli journalist: Have you determined the names of the outside Palestinians who would take part in the negotiations with the Israeli side on the basis of President Husni Mubarak's proposal?

'Arafat replied: Nothing has yet been decided. All these topics are under discussion.

The journalist: Do you agree in principle to the membership of two deportees in the Palestinian delegation?

'Arafat: As I said, this subject is still under discussion. Efforts are still being exerted by President Mubarak and other friends to reach a general agreement on all these topics.

Question: Have you discussed names?

Abu 'Ammar: How can we discuss names while we have not yet reached the final agreement.

Question: How do you assess the Mubarak-Mafiz talks whose contents President Mubarak briefed you on?

'Arafat: President Mubarak told me that his talks with the Israeli defense minister were positive for the establishment of just peace in the region.

Question: Do you agree to the principle of direct negotiations with Israel in the presence of Egypt?

'Arafat: What we have told President Mubarak is that we always keep an open mind and that dialogue will make us attain a just and lasting peace where there will be international legitimacy in which we all believe. I do not believe there is anything preventing this international legitimacy from being the basis and the framework.

An Israeli journalist: President Mubarak mentioned that you are ready to visit Israel and to negotiate with Israeli officials. There is a state invitation?

'Arafat: President Mubarak said no such thing. He said something different. He was asked a question and his reply was different from this.

An Israeli question: What about the specific idea that figures from outside the occupied territories will participate in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

'Arafat: I already told you that the details are being studied.

Question: President Mubarak said that in principle you agree to the idea of a meeting between a Palestinian and an Israeli delegation?

'Arafat: It seems that you misunderstood what I said earlier. I have been calling on you to meet me since I stood in the UN center and proclaimed the Palestinian peace initiative. I have said that I am inviting the Israeli leadership to come for the initiation of a dialogue with me to establish peace in the region.

Question: Does this invitation still stand?

"Arafat: Yes, and I still abide by this invitation. I hope you will extend it to the entire Israeli people, and to all the Israeli officials. I hope I will receive an answer or a response to what I say."

Question: Why did the Fatah Congress adopt a resolution to intensify and escalate armed struggle against Israel?

"Arafat: It seems you have not read the political statement issued by Fatah. I wish you would be more accurate in your questions."

Question: Can a Palestinian state be established alongside an Israeli state, of course, and does this mean the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

"Arafat: Yes. This is what I said in my speech at the United Nations."

This is the road to just, comprehensive, and real peace in the region. This is what I said in the initiative I submitted in my speech at the United Nations and clarified in the news conference I held after the speech I delivered at the United Nations. What I said is clear. I repeated what I said in the speech I delivered at the nonaligned summit, and in the speech I delivered at the summit of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa. This is so because this stand on peace and the search for peace and the Palestinian initiative are a strategic initiative and not a tactical move.

Question: Abu 'Ammar, what about the right to self-determination for the Palestinians who are in Lebanon?

"Arafat: What do you say to the Jews who left the Soviet Union and other countries and whom you are forcing to come to Israel?"

The journalist: We do not force them.

"Arafat: You are forcing them and preventing the U.S. Administration from offering them facilities to go to the United States. We must not also forget that there are 600,000 Palestinians in Latin America."

Question: What about the U.S. Administration's role in the forthcoming stage?

"Arafat: It goes without saying that we wish President Bush and the U.S. Administration to assume the role we expect from them to help in starting the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and to convince the Israeli Government to accept the principle that President Bush had announced, that of the termination of the Israeli occupation, and the acknowledgement of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination."

A question from an Israeli: President Mubarak is trying to build a bridge between the Palestinians and the Israelis. However, 2 days ago there was a terrorist attempt somewhere in Switzerland carried out by the Palestinians. So how can Israel trust you and your

intentions if you still carry out operations that step over the green line? Are you ready to denounce this operation?"

"Arafat: We must first establish whether you are sure it was carried out by the Palestinians."

Another Israeli journalist: What have you to say regarding the terrorist operations carried out by the Palestinians?

"Arafat: You say this while forgetting those killed by the Israelis. You must take into consideration the Palestinians killed daily. The Unified National Leadership [of the intifadah] has issued a decision that nobody should be killed without a fair trial. This was issued in numerous communiqués and in the monthly message I convey in my own voice to the people inside the occupied territories. We totally reject an innocent person being hurt, even slightly, let alone being killed. This is a very clear stand by the intifadah leadership. I have declared it many times in my speeches. The Unified National Leadership also declared it."

Question: Do the Palestinians inside the occupied territories not obey your instructions?

"Arafat: Can the Israeli Government control all the Israelis' conduct of 'never-never' in the background? Then that's it. Can Bush control all the Americans? There are other examples in other places. However, the major issue is the daily killing of our children, women, and men. The issue as you very well know is 933 martyrs so far since the start of the intifadah. Sixty percent of them are under 16 years of age. Do you accept the death of your son? Our sons are being killed. Have you no mercy?"

Here, Arafat's eyes brimmed with tears.

He continues: Are these the instructions of the Torah? You are violating the Torah in this way since the Torah says one should not kill.

How can you violate the Torah? Shame on you. These are our sons. Do you know that three martyrs fell today at 0830. Two of them are under 16 years old.

Voices from the Israeli press: Why do you not order a mutual truce?

"Arafat: Who is occupying the territory? You are occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Am I the one occupying it? Let us do what they have done in Namibia. They have reached an agreement called the New York agreement."

Question: We are ready to negotiate with the Palestinian people present on the territory.

"Arafat: Am I not a Palestinian?"

The journalist: You do not approve.

"Arafat: Am I not a Palestinian? Answer me. Answer me. A few days ago, didn't you hear that they allowed Sam

Negotiate to enter Namibia. Would you allow me to enter Palestine? Why am I not allowed to enter Palestine and why do I not enter it?

The journalist: Only on the basis of a peace treaty.

Arafat: After Israeli withdrawal, I am ready to have a peace treaty. I call out to you and say: I come let us agree to a peace treaty. I ask: Do Shamon and the Likud agree to withdrawing from the territories occupied since 1967? I demand an answer. What about Resolution No. 242 which you claim to recognize, which the Palestine National Council (PNC) recognized, and which stipulates withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967? I would like to ask: Do the Likud and Shamon agree to accepting Resolution 242 (here, nobody comments) and does Rabin agree to accepting Resolution 242? (voices in the background) Yes, he agrees and wants to negotiate with the people inside the occupied territories. Aren't I a Palestinian? (he says) I am a bastard? God forgive you. Am I not one of the people? The people elected me to represent them. Is there anyone in the West Bank or Gaza Strip who says that I do not represent them?

The journalist: No. But authorize them to enter negotiations.

Arafat: Are you serious? God Almighty: In God's name, do you think I would accept so and so or reject such and such a person from your delegation? You are free to choose the delegation you wish. The same goes for us. We are free to choose the delegation that represents us. (he says) that you are free and we are slaves?

Question: What were the points proposed by President Mubarak for a solution?

Arafat: The 10 points are 10 questions posed to the Israeli Government, as explained by President Mubarak in his last meeting with the press a couple of days ago. The Israeli Government is now expected to answer these questions. I am awaiting the Israeli Government's replies to the points posed by President Mubarak. In fact, I am not the only one awaiting the replies. The Arab League, the whole world, the permanent member states of the UN Security Council, including the United States itself, are awaiting these replies. These are questions posed to the Israeli Government, not an initiative.

Question: Shevardnadze will meet with Bush today. The USSR supports Egypt's 10 points, but it disagrees with Shamon's initiative as it would not lead to a final settlement.

Arafat: I cannot speak for Shevardnadze. What I know is that the socialist bloc countries issued a statement. The European Community also issued a statement in Madrid. The socialist bloc statement in Bucharest called for the achievement of peace in the region through an international conference attended by the permanent member states of the UN Security Council. This conference, the statement said, should lead to acknowledging the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to achieve self-determination and to establish

their state on their national soil, not a new homeland. The statement said there is no alternative to the international conference, especially since the permanent member states, including the United States itself, agreed to it in principle, but they said circumstances should determine the time of the conference. So, the permanent member states of the UN Security Council have approved the international conference. The nonaligned states also approved it recently. The Arab states approved the conference in Casablanca and the African states approved it in Addis Ababa. Japan and the other industrial powers also approved the conference.

Therefore, there is international unanimity on the conference. I also know that several Israeli political parties, no matter how small, have approved the conference in one way or another.

Replying to a question on the idea of an interim solution, Arafat said: My dear, a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is just a preparatory step to help promote the peace process through an international conference, which has been unanimously approved.

The same journalist asked: What is your opinion on the subject of the elections?

Arafat said: Who told you I am against elections? We are a democratic movement. But can elections be held under occupation?

Let me ask you: Some 116 municipal council members were elected in 1976, what happened to them? Some were dismissed, others were killed, and yet others were either detained or imprisoned. Were those not also elections?

At this point, the journalist repeated the question in vague terms.

Arafat said: Be more specific. Do not mix questions. You asked about the elections, and I asked you: Can there be honest elections under occupation? There is a saying that goes: Once bitten, twice shy. I was bitten in 1976. Therefore, I say: Yes to elections but under international supervision and as part of a comprehensive peace process. The elections must be held away from the influence of the Israeli occupation forces and authorities. This is why I proposed the Namibian example, which has been approved by the United States.

Why do we not repeat the successful Namibian experiment in the occupied Palestinian territories?

Arafat said: I approve of the Namibian example, although I did not take part in the New York talks concerning Namibia. I agree to all the provisions approved by the United States and Namibia. I agree to them with regard to Palestine.

Question: Do you approve of demilitarizing Palestine?

Arafat: Is Namibia demilitarized?

The Israeli journalist: "No. I am asking you about Palestine."

"Arafat: I am also asking you a question. When I got Beirut and left it under the control of the multinational forces, what did you do to us? At that time, I had guarantees from four countries and the United Nations. The Sabra and Shatila massacre was perpetrated. Do you want to perpetrate other massacres?"

An Israeli journalist: This operation was carried out by the Lebanese Phalangists and not by the Israeli Army.

"Arafat: OK, be fair. Who supervised the perpetration of these massacres? Read the report which you yourselves prepared. I am satisfied with this report. Whom did you kill? In this report, you held Rifaat Ezzan and Shamon, who planned the Sabra and Shatila massacre, responsible. Is this not true? How can we forget this? Or has our blood turned into water? Peace must be the peace of the courageous. It must be a balanced peace. What goes for you goes for us. Moreover, do I have atomic bombs? You have between 180 and 200 nuclear warheads. You also have the largest number of chemical warheads. You have powerful missiles. You have recently fired missiles with a range of 1,000 km. This means that half the Arab capitals are at the mercy of your missile hammer. Why, then, do you tell me you are afraid of a Palestinian state whose cities, villages, and airports will be within firing range of your artillery and machongans? Oh man, have you no mercy? Have you no mercy? You are so unkind!"

In reply to a question about whether he intends to travel to the United States to attend the meetings of the UN General Assembly, "Arafat said: This topic is still under discussion by the PLO leadership."

Question: Do you believe that the preparatory meeting which will be held in Cairo will be under UN auspices and not under Egyptian supervision?

"Arafat: I want to ask you a question. Do you not say that everything must be based on Resolutions 242 and 338?"

The female journalist said: Yes.

An Israeli journalist: Does all that has happened mean that there is no change in the Palestinian stance?

Abu Ammar: "Have you no mercy?" There is no change in the Israeli stand. As for the Palestinians, their stand has changed. I am ready for the preparatory meeting called for by President Mubarak. We support these moves. We also thank President Mubarak for his efforts. The dialogue, however, has its own rules. The dialogue is not attainable when your conditions or mine are met. Then "Arafat sternly announced: We reject conditions. To be fair, the dialogue must be held within the framework of the international legitimacy. We must have the right to propose for discussion whatever we want, and they [the Israelis] must have the same right. That is fairness. You must have the right to say whatever you want, and I must also have the right to say whatever I want. Are you undemocratic? Or have you been influenced by the armed settlers? You have seen democracy in our arena. I

am not coming with 2,000 percent vote. I am, however, coming with the PLO resolutions which were endorsed by a vote of 84.5 percent. I think that this is enough. You recently polled people in the occupied territories and found that 87 percent of those polled accept me as president, 77 percent declared vengeance, and 11 percent approved this. I accept this opposition."

A question posed by an Israeli: There are Israeli cabinet ministers who have not approved the land for peace formula. These ministers will never endorse this formula.

"Arafat: Good Almighty! On what basis there was the agreement signed between you and Egypt? On what basis did you conclude this agreement with them [the Egyptians]? Are not the principles contained in the Egyptian-Israeli agreement based on the formula of trading land for peace?"

"Arafat added: Good Almighty! Have you revoked the agreement which you signed with the Egyptians?"

Ummath al-Bay said that the Palestinians have the same rights.

A journalist said: You are described as a clown.

"Arafat said: This has not only been said about me. You should examine what was said about Begin himself."

One of the journalists said: They say he is a clown.

"Arafat said: I accept such talk as long as you say this and much more about yourselves. Begin surpasses a clown. We have not forgotten who shelled the ship off the port of Tel Aviv. You know that you are the ones who shelled it."

"Arafat addresses the Egyptian journalists and says: In Egypt, you do not know this story. This was a ship full of poor Jews escaping Nazi oppression and on its way to our country of Palestine. We welcomed them there. However, the quarrel between them and Ben-Gurion led Ben-Gurion to blow up the ship. Those on board were killed and massacred."

The Israeli journalists went quiet.

"Arafat said: We do not want to go into details. At any rate, you are one country."

He laughed, saying: You know that we know each other very well. We are paternal cousins and know each other inside out.

Concluding his news conference, "Arafat said: We want peace. Peace, however, for me and for you. Peace is not for you alone while death, destruction, and occupation are for me."

Addressing an Israeli journalist, "Arafat said: You know that Gaza is now hungry. Not even the flour from the United Nations and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees is allowed in."

'Arafat told the Israeli press: Convey these words to Israel!

One of the Israeli journalists answered back: I am not responsible for Israeli policy. I do, however, believe that if things take their course quietly, the PLO will have to delegate people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to negotiate. Then, in the second stage, the PLO will enter negotiations. Now, you are hindering the process after it began moving and Faysal al-Husayni said that he represents 'Arafat. Everyone there says they represent 'Arafat. Who are you afraid of having negotiations start in your name? You can enter them in the next stage.

'Arafat said: How about you and I negotiating? What do you think of that?

The journalist said: I am not an official.

'Arafat said: You are not an official and the others are not officials.

The journalist said: Each of us speaks on behalf of another person. I have no authority to negotiate with you.

'Arafat said: How can you say that you do not have the authority, while at the same time you say—that is, you dictate—to me that I have the authority inside the occupied territories. Who gives authority, anyway?

Here Usamah al-Baz comments: Whoever authorizes making me part of a delegation.

'Arafat said: We have a leadership here.

Question: With continuing Israeli belligerence and stubbornness, could the process be resolved by the end of this year?

Here 'Arafat took out a magnetic card from his pocket and showed it as evidence of the discrimination practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories. These cards prohibit the Palestinians from moving from one region to another. They also have special colors on them designating one residential district and prohibit the bearer from entering another district.

'Arafat pointed out that the cards resemble cards issued by the Nazis, except that these ones are technically more developed. They include all the characteristics of the person. 'Arafat wondered whether this was not discrimination. Have mercy. In God's name have you no mercy?

'Arafat told the Israelis: Do you accept such cards yourselves? You must reject them. You must write about this supporting the Palestinians. You must help me reject them. We are human beings like you.

The Israeli journalist said: We will help you and you help us too.

'Arafat Adviser on Negotiations With Israel

JN/209/104589 Manama: H-UKF to Arabic
0800 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Manama, 24 Sep (WAKH)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yassir 'Arafat, has said that he expects active moves before the end of the year to launch Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, with the participation of Egypt and the two superpowers. They would begin drawing up arrangements for elections that would lead to an interim phase which in turn would lead to national independence.

In a telephone conversation with the Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALJ* published today, Abu-Sharif said that the main factor behind progress thus far was the intifadah [uprising]. He said that the intifadah will escalate and that the Palestinians have means and weapons to resist the occupation which have not been used so far. He said that the Sharm el-Sheikh plan is a plan for annexing the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, he added that the 10 points proposed by Egypt are positive if put within the framework of a complete plan for terminating the Israeli occupation.

Asked whether he is still ready to go to Israel to negotiate with its leaders and determine whether they really want to achieve peace, Abu-Sharif said: "I know and have no doubts that Sharm el-Sheikh and his government do not seek peace. We are waging a peace offensive against them. That is why I challenged them. I did so because I knew that they would expose this fact before world opinion that believes that Sharm el-Sheikh seeks peace. The Sharm el-Sheikh plan is a plan for annexing the West Bank and Gaza. Hence, this plan must be laid bare and exposed. Therefore, I am still ready to negotiate without any delegations chosen by the PLO to travel to Tel Aviv.

Abu-Sharif paid tribute to the Soviet role in the efforts to advance the peace process in the Middle East and indicated that USSR Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze displayed a sympathetic attitude in support of the Palestinian stance in his recent talks in Washington. He added that the Middle East issue has become a priority topic on the agenda of previous visits which will be discussed during the forthcoming summit between USSR President Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush.

PLO's 'Abbas on Dialogue With Israelis, U.S.

JN/209/11289 Paris: Radio Monte Carlo to Arabic
1700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Randa Hatul dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Following a meeting with Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Bin-Shaker, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud Abbas, Abu-Marin, said that he briefed the Jordanian officials on developments in the issue of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and related details.

In a statement, Abbas added that the PLO agrees to holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on the condition that the Palestinian delegation includes Palestinians from both inside and outside the occupied Arab territories. He said that the Jordanian officials support the opening of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, provided that the Palestinian delegation includes Palestinians from inside and outside.

Regarding the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, Abbas said from the United States we want a specific and clear expression of their policy, on what they have announced several times, that the dialogue should be for the sake of searching for a peaceful settlement, and that the dialogue should not be for dialogue itself, as he put it. He added: A new round in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue may be held very soon. He expressed the hope that this round would move matters forward.

Concerning the points proposed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on elections in the occupied territories, Abbas said in a the PLO is coordinating with Egypt on this plan. He added: What is the use of saying yes or no as long as the other party shows intransigence toward accepting the concept of peace.

Intifadah Statement Criticizes 10-Point Plan

IN JERUSALEM/By Fares Hadad, Mena's Cairo, in Arabic, 1700 GMT, 24 Sep.

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah (uprising) in the occupied Palestinian territories today sharply criticized the Egyptian proposal. The Unified Leadership's latest statement blamed the Egyptian plan for not taking into consideration the Palestinian people's basic rights, and stated: The Egyptian 10 points cannot be accepted unless they clarify, and explicitly stress, the need for the PLO's participation in the political process on an equal footing with the other concerned parties. The statement added that the Egyptian proposals are unacceptable as long as its 10 points do not specify the final objective in accordance with the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state.

In another development, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yassir Arafat has appealed to Palestinian strugglers in the occupied territories to put an end to their intercommunal disputes and be united. Arafat's appeal came in a written message dated 25 August that reached the Gaza Strip today. In his message, he appealed to the members of the Fatah Movement and the Islamic Resistance Movement, HAMAS, following the emergence of signs of tension between them.

In the meantime, and in view of the increasing liquidation of those suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities, a statement by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah stressed the need to expose those collaborating with the occupation authorities, but said they should not be killed unless serious officials so decide.

Cairo Paper Interviews West Bank Figures

IN JERUSALEM/By Fares Hadad, Mena's Cairo, in Arabic, 22 Sep 89 p.6

[By: Nuhail Shaker]

[Text] I had a brief conversation with a Palestinian delegation composed of three leading nationalist figures in the occupied land in Palestine—Ghassan al-Shak'a [a West Bank Bar Association official], Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, president of the Journalists Association in the occupied land, and lawyer Ja'asi al-Tarifi, deposed deputy mayor of al-Birah. They commented on Israeli Defense Minister Rabin's statement after his talks with President Mubarak on the composition of a Palestinian delegation, as the projected dialogue with the Israeli side.

On the makeup of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed negotiations with the Israelis, Radwan Abu 'Ayyash said: Rabin brought nothing new in his answers to the Egyptian questions posed to the Israeli Government concerning the elections proposed by Sharm el-Sheikh for the West Bank. In my opinion, the composition of a Palestinian delegation from inside or outside the occupied land to hold talks in Cairo under the aegis of the Egyptian Government might help break the deadlock caused by Israel's stand and its rejection of the Palestinian initiative launched by the PLO following the Palestine National Council's resolutions. Abu 'Ayyash adds: I also think that full coordination between Egypt and the PLO must continue to promote a way to break the stalemate.

Also commenting on the Israeli defense minister's statement, Ghassan al-Shak'a said: By restricting the Palestinian delegation to the occupied territories, Rabin reiterates recessions of the PLO—something we will not accept. A Palestinian delegation counts as Palestinian whether it comes from inside or outside the occupied territories. Rabin mentions self-rule and other points, but does not talk about a final settlement, Israeli withdrawal, or Palestinian legitimate rights. Dropping these points makes no sense and takes us back to square one.

Abu 'Ayyash then took up the conversation. He said the dialogue and the delegation are not ends in themselves since they do not amount to a coherent peace initiative incorporating the right to self-determination or Palestinian statehood or a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land. They are just a start toward a comprehensive settlement, given good faith.

He said: I think a settlement must be based on three requirements. First, recognizing the PLO as a fundamental partner in the projected negotiations, since there can be no solution without the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Second, the settlement must be based on U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 242, in other words, the (tradition)

of land for peace. The resolution must be interpreted so as to lead to a total Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

Third, there should be international guarantees to ensure a continuation of the process for a solution.

Without these three points, any solution will appear to be a form of luxury which will only lead to more complications. In spite of this, we feel that the many Egyptian attempts coming to find a formula to shake the deadlock are worthy of all encouragement and appreciation by the Palestinian side. We also believe that the PLO leadership will not miss any positive opportunity through which the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights can be realized. The Israeli policy of procrastination and delay and the measures implemented on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza are two factors that hamper any real peace effort to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Regarding what has been achieved by the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue during the previous phase and what can be achieved during the next phase, Abu Ayyash said, I believe that we as Palestinians have paid a dear price for the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in order to convince the United States of America to adopt a more objective and credible position on the Middle East. However, the U.S. side did not really conduct real and principal talks. The dialogue was confined to subjects which are not central. Still, it is considered an official channel between the PLO and Washington. We believe that this channel of communication must be positive in order to contribute to the solution now. This is because the United States fully supports Israel and has a major role dictated by the nature and geography of the Middle East.

Concerning the presence of international sides in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Abu Ayyash said, We need to concentrate on the importance of having an international platform to sponsor the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue because the existence of such a platform will constitute a factor to guarantee the dialogue's continuity. We do not want the dialogue to start and then stop. We want it to continue and bear fruit. For instance, there were Egyptian-Israeli talks and there was a presence of international supervisors for the continuity of the dialogue. It is possible to have international formulas, say, the United Nations, to witness the dialogue's continuity. The United States may also have an active role to continue in the efforts to achieve solution.

While stressing his words, Abu Ayyash said, Dialogue must also have a deadline. The above-mentioned three points must also be points for the solution within the framework of a specific timetable to implement what is agreed upon immediately. The Israelis propose two transitional phases and then a comprehensive settlement. They also need a timetable and a clarification. A solution on the line of the September model can be used to implement the comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory and enable the Palestinian people to exercise the right to self-determination.

Regarding the importance of the Arab role in resolving the question, Bassam al-Shaykh said, The current situation does not require such a role. But future stages will require such a positive role to resolve the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict at the proper time. If there are Arab formulas that can be proposed in the form of Arab meetings about the question, then there is no objection. But at the current phase, that will not be enough to reach the desired solution.

Egypt

Khartoum: Paper Interviews, President Mubarak

JN/Interviews Khartoum: H. QABAN in Arabic
22 Sep 89 pp. 12, 13

[Interview with Egyptian President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak by Al-QABAN chief editor Muhammad Jassim al-Sagor in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Sagor] During the past few days, you have experienced many events and met with a number of journalists, at news conferences. I do not want this interview to be a traditional one, because the questions I want to ask have been asked either directly or indirectly. At the same time, recently—after Egypt returned to the Arab fold and after the initiatives you made—you probably began to have a certain journalistic feeling greater than that which journalists have.

[Mubarak] No one can beat the journalists.

[Al-Sagor] No, you can beat them. Mr. President, if you were in my position as a chief editor of an Arab paper who came to interview you, what are the five most important subjects you think I would ask about?

[Mubarak] You will ask me about the Middle East question and the developments taking place now. You will ask me about the Lebanese crisis and about the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. And, you will probably ask me about the Arab League and Arab-African ties.

[Al-Sagor] True, these are the basic issues, and I hope you will answer the questions.

[Mubarak] Regarding the Middle East question, we are in a critical phase now. The Israeli defense minister was here with me (day before yesterday) and we want to begin an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue so that both parties can begin the discussion and talk about elections and the formation of the delegation to take part in the negotiations. Israel has a viewpoint on the delegation that contradicts the PLO's viewpoint. Israel wants a Palestinian delegation and hopes it will be from the West Bank and Gaza. However, they know full well that they cannot negotiate with the people of the West Bank and Gaza who are present there without Palestinians from outside [of the occupied territories], and they are convinced of this.

[Al-Sagor] Or without the PLO's say?

[Mubarak] The PLO must have a say. The Israelis say they do not wish to talk to the PLO. Fine, we will agree with the PLO on the names of Palestinians from outside and inform the Israelis of them. I believe the Israeli position is very understanding about these points, and there must be members from outside because they are certain that Palestinians from the inside will not negotiate elections or any other subjects related to the talks.

The problem is that there are differences within the Israeli Government, and I hope they will reach a solution because the peace process must not be jeopardized. I have explained to them the great value of peace. I told them that they have been at war for more than 40 years and they have not enjoyed peace. War will only benefit a small minority of people while peace will achieve the interests of all—whether that of the Israeli people or that of the other peoples.

[Al-Sagor] But, Mr. President, there are two points the Israelis have consistently opposed in your 11-point initiative. The first point is land for peace, and the second is the right to self-determination. Rabin did not oppose these two points, but neither did he accept them directly. Shamir has rejected them part and parcel.

[Mubarak] Logic must reign. If Israel wants peace, then it must give up the territories—land for peace. But, to say peace in exchange for peace—how can this be achieved? How can a people with no land or entity build relations of peace when they do not have a homeland?

[Al-Sagor] Mr. President, in your personal opinion, do you intend to strike the Israeli Government from inside to make it resign and hold new elections?

[Mubarak] No, I do not interfere in anyone's affairs. I can see no interest in the collapse of the Israeli Government, because this would delay the peace process. Sooner or later, a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue should begin. There is no need to waste time in new elections and differences for a year or two; then the situation would go back to square one again, which is the need to hold dialogue. I have asked the United States to open dialogue with the PLO since 1985. This took place during a meeting with President Reagan in the attendance of [former] Defense Secretary Weinberger, Secretary of State Shultz, Rumsfeld, and McFarlane. They rejected the idea. I called for contacts and dialogue for the sake of understanding and discussion. I contacted Shultz after 1 and a half years, and he finally agreed to open dialogue, which has actually begun. Peace must be achieved for all peoples. A just solution that gives the rights to all parties must also be achieved. Today, I tell the same thing to the Israelis. There is a crisis of confidence between the Palestinians and the Israelis. This confidence must be built. So, how can we build this confidence without beginning contacts and dialogue? I do not call for entering negotiations directly or for setting conditions for the negotiations. I call for beginning dialogue and reaching an understanding on the method of elections, then on the stage that will follow elections, and the points that will lead to the final solution. Understanding begins and confidence is built through dialogue; then negotiations will follow. Thus, we can safeguard the peace process and give it a push forward. This is in the interest of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples and the entire region.

[Al-Sagor] Some say, and I am just quoting, that President Humei Mubarak wants to undermine Shamer's position through this initiative.

[Mubarak] It is not among my principles to undermine or to insult anyone. I may criticize a certain policy, but I do not undermine anyone. Why should I undermine Shamer or anyone else?

[Al-Sagor] Because he represents the intransigent wing in the government.

[Mubarak] The Israeli public is the one that deals with their government. The Israeli public is the one responsible and capable, but not me. I do not want to undermine a government so that we do not waste time for a year or 2 years until a new government is formed, and then who knows, the new government may dissolve and another opportunity will be lost. This is a useless game. I am addressing the Israeli Government and I am telling it and the Israeli people that they have never tried peace since the establishment of the State of Israel, and they have been at war until now, for approximately 41 years. I am telling them: Try peace because it is precious, peace has a price, and peace cannot be achieved without returning the land. This is the logic with which we are addressing Israel. I believe that the Israeli people understand this. Do you think that the Israeli people are happy while, since the establishment of Israel they have been waging wars and fighting? There are children who lose their fathers and fathers who lose their children. There have been wars, if not here, then they are there. There is fighting, destruction, and infidelity [uprising]. Fighting was in Lebanon and before with Egypt. Is it possible for this situation to continue? Is it possible to achieve psychological stability with this situation? Peace brings stability, security, and the freedom of movement with the states with which you establish peace. When peace prevails, then no one will kill or stone you. Psychological stability will then be achieved and it will lead to social stability. The outcome of this stability will reflect on the development of peoples and on improving their living conditions. Peace can guarantee this.

[Al-Sagor] How was Rabin's visit to Egypt arranged?

[Mubarak] The visit was provided by many discussions. It had been proposed by some that I extend an invitation for Rabin to visit and hold talks and so I did. I had previously met with Peres and Aarens who met here with Shevardnadze. I will be seeing both Peres and Aarens in New York. In order for there to be understanding, there should be contacts and dialogue among the parties. I have to see the parties concerned. There is no problem that may be solved using carrier pigeons. Mediation or letters can still leave some points vague or misrepresented. But direct contacts produce common understanding and remove apprehensions. It is always preferable to resort to dialogue if we are to smooth over differences, sort out misunderstandings, or dispel apprehensions. Only via negotiations will the issue be resolved and the land restored, war will not settle the problem. If

evidence is needed to support our argument, we have the American-Vietnamese war that lasted for years and was only settled at the negotiating table in Paris.

[Al-Sagor] How do you rate the prospects of success for your initiative?

[Mubarak] To be fair, I do not want to discuss any specific success rate. Israel uses its brains and if it wants to be logical—I think there are quite a few sensible people in Israel—it will go along with the 10 points, which are inquiries seeking clarifications to Shamer's principles for elections.

[Al-Sagor] This is obvious enough.

[Mubarak] I do not want a golden opportunity to slip away. I do not like to quote specific success prospects lest there be room for controversy. I think there is a golden opportunity. We have not rejected the notion of elections. Only we are seeking clarifications. There are 10 questions to which we want answers, so we then sit together and talk without preconditions. This is being done for the sake of the proposed elections and finding representatives of the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied land. Then a delegation should be formed to handle subsequent negotiations.

[Al-Sagor] Is it fair to say, then, that you are optimistic?

[Mubarak] I am temperamentally optimistic and I just hope Mr Shamer will not put a damper on this optimism. Otherwise, a rare opportunity will have been missed. I am optimistic and Shamer is making things difficult.

[Al-Sagor] Do you think, Mr President, that Shamer or the Likud is likely to backtrack?

[Mubarak] Let me tell you something. A ruler in a democracy is not a dictator. I say Israel is a democracy where decisions are inspired by the people and public opinion. I cannot impose anything on the Egyptian people. I know that Israel prides itself on its democratic tradition. If the people happen to think differently than the government then we must bow to the will of the people. This is what democracy is about.

[Al-Sagor] Mr President, do you believe the Lebanese question is related in one way or another to what is going on in the occupied Arab territories?

[Mubarak] Yes, I agree with you in that the Palestine question is the core of all problems in the region. Hence, if we manage to resolve the Palestine question, the other problems will be resolved. If the Palestine question is resolved, if the Palestinian territory is returned, if the borders become calm and if Jordan and Syria regain their rights, then no one will have the excuse to remain in Lebanon.

[Al-Sagor] Regarding the international detente between the Soviet Union and the United States, is it true that what is happening in Lebanon has some connection with

international détente?" We see that Arabs are making tremendous efforts, but they have not yet reached a specific solution.

[Mubarak] I know that each power has a friend or an ally to which it gives the advice to be sensible. I know that the Soviet Union and the United States are trying, but there are sides dealing with other sides.

[Al-Sagor] Non-Lebanese sides?

[Mubarak] Lebanese and non-Lebanese. I wish they will take a lesson from the superpowers which are establishing détente. The major powers that possess the weapons of destruction are establishing détente while we buy arms from them in order to fight each other. We spend our money on arms to fight with, and we borrow to murder and destroy. If God has granted us wisdom and logic, we would have diverted our resources toward development instead of directing them toward crises. Wars are the cause of our economic crises.

[Al-Sagor] What are the most important issues in the Arab world that are preoccupying your mind particularly during the recent past after Egypt began to play a role—directly or indirectly—following its return to the Arab League and the restoration of ties with the majority of Arab states, and after Egypt regained confidence in the Arab world? What are the most important issues preoccupying your mind as the leader of the biggest Arab country?

[Mubarak] Ask me what I wish our brothers in the different groupings of the Arab nation—the Gulf Cooperation Council, the ACC, and the Arab Maghreb Union—and in the states that are not members of these groupings, I hope that unity and harmony will prevail among us. I hope we will build confidence among us and cooperate for the benefit of our people. I also hope we agree on things, and if we have differences then let us agree to have differences and not to start stabbing each other in the back. We must establish cooperation among us on a sound basis for our advantage. The foreign groupings agree among themselves. Look at Europe, which will create a European Common Market in 1992—that is, a single economic entity. This at a time when we are still divided and unable to establish an Arab entity to deal with the European market or with the United States and Canada. The result is that they became a major economic force. We are fragmented and we will lose much. All of us will lose, including our rich states.

[Al-Sagor] Do you not think that this is a principal role that Egypt should play?

[Mubarak] Egypt alone? No. But, in agreement with our brothers who are free to move in the Arab world—with our brothers in Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and so forth. We all can begin a joint action. We must do that in order not to miss the train and regret this when we start

running after it. Europe of 1992 will be a major economic power to be reckoned with even by the United States itself. Meanwhile, we are behaving as if we are living on another planet.

[Al-Sagor] Your talk is great. But, this will lead me to another thing that is obvious now because Egypt chairs the Arab conference—by the Arab states close to it and even by the states that did not restore their ties with Egypt. It is obvious that there is respect, confidence, and satisfaction. We know, and history has taught us, that Egypt has always been the focal point, which means that Egypt has always been the country playing the leading role. You have many initiatives and the Arab world is still fragmented. I know from my own sources as a journalist that you play a role behind the scenes to reconcile things among many Arab regimes, some of which you do not have diplomatic ties with. Is this true?

[Mubarak] Possible. But, I will not reveal any details on this subject.

[Al-Sagor] Are you optimistic, Mr. President?

[Mubarak] I am optimistic by nature and not given to losing heart easily. I never despair. If I should fail trying to achieve something, for me it need not be the end of the road. I will try another tack. If that should prove fruitless again, I will seek yet another course. Despair is out of the question. Eventually, perseverance will get us to our goal. Sense, logic, justice, and straight talk will work wonders.

[Al-Sagor] I would like to turn to a subject that has not been talked about a lot, but which nevertheless has given Egypt a leading role, and that is your election to the O.A.U. chairmanship. Would you describe how you came to be elected?

[Mubarak] Frankly speaking, it must be admitted that Egypt is an African state and as such should cooperate with its African sisters. Afro-Arab cooperation is imperative for the good of our peoples. I realize that the O.A.U. chairmanship adds to my responsibilities but these have to be borne in the interests of our people.

[Al-Sagor] You are well qualified to shoulder the burden.

[Mubarak] Every human being can achieve only so much. I will do all I can to fulfill the trust, especially this year as I assume the responsibility.

[Al-Sagor] Mr. President, There is a face-off between the opposition and government in Egypt. What would you do if you were to lay down rules?

[Mubarak] Rules for what?

[Al-Sagor] To regulate the relationship and contribute to a resolution of this confrontation.

[Mubarak] I do not want to waste my time in confrontations. I am not about to deplete my energy. I had better

use it for internal development and building the infrastructure and promoting agriculture and industry. My attention should be concentrated on alleviating the burden borne by the citizens. If I should turn my attention to confrontations, this will be at the expense of public interest. I am telling all the parties that the arena is open for public action and urging the masses. The government does not mind its mistakes being pointed out and alternatives being suggested. I am working to serve the people who voted me into office. All my efforts are geared to raising the standard of living. I have no time to spare for anything else. Time is a precious commodity and every effort must be made for the good of the people.

[Al-Sagor] Are there confrontations between the opposition and the government?

[Mubarak] Naturally.

[Al-Sagor] Are you a natural Democrat?

[Mubarak] The people learn from democracy and they are the judge.

[Al-Sagor] Mr. President, has highlighted the issue of Kuwait has put the world debt problem on the agenda.

[Mubarak] We highly appreciate this move, as do many Third World nations. Although Kuwait is a creditor rather than a debtor nation, the issue of Kuwait has placed the issue on the agenda, and for that he deserves my and the Third World's respect.

[Al-Sagor] Your excellency the president. The issue now besets all of the poor Third World nations and many of the industrialized countries. How do you see it resolved?

[Mubarak] I do not think that all of the industrialized nations fully grasp the gravity of the problem, not only for the Third World but for the themselves also. Third World nations are incurring debts to finance their development—even the United States resorts to borrowing. If a solution is not found to the debt problem that guarantees a continuation of the development process—borrowing, debt settlement, and international trade—the upshot will be a fall in the development rates in the Third World and a slowdown in the development process in the advanced nations as a result of a reduction in consumption and imports by Third World countries leading to recession and unemployment in the industrialized countries, as happened in the international crisis of 1929-1930. It is therefore important that the North-South dialogue on indebtedness gets under way. Along with India, Senegal and Venezuela, we proposed an initiative to the seven industrialized nations last July in Paris with a view to starting a dialogue to tackle the debt problem.

Indeed, the Third World countries are burdened with heavy debts at very high interest rates. So, if these countries stop purchasing and importing, then the rich producing and exporting states will be hit by recession.

The price of oil fell sharply from \$10 or \$15 a barrel to \$6 and rose again to \$8 and then \$9, thereby leading the industrial and rich nations to realize huge surpluses. Have these nations reduced the prices of their exports to the Third World in a manner that corresponds with even one-quarter of the reduction incurred in the oil prices? No, on the contrary. The prices are increasing annually. Still, the rich nations have acquired a surplus estimated at billions of dollars. However, the Third World countries, including the oil-producing states, have become encumbered with increasing burdens. Therefore, the dialogue is extremely essential to achieving economic cooperation and safeguarding the interests of all nations and people.

[Al-Sagor] But that will require a unified stand among the Third World states.

[Mubarak] We are holding talks with the Third World. The voices are loud. The process has become extremely tiring. The industrial nations, whose surplus is rising, are not willing to hear and respond. Should we wait for the disaster to happen and the world economy to collapse? I kindly request that a dialogue begin to solve this problem, which is threatening all of us.

[Al-Sagor] Egypt is a member of the ACC and Good willing. Your Excellency Hosni Mubarak is a basic element in this.

[Mubarak] No. There are all basic elements.

[Al-Sagor] The four of you are basic elements. Where is the ACC heading? What is the destination of its course? What is its strategy?

[Mubarak] It is like the OIC. There is economic cooperation among its states. We are all from the Arab League. There is absolutely nothing contrary to the Arab League Charter. The ACC is not a grouping or an axis against anyone. We are not advocates of axes. There are identical or homogeneous states, and we welcome cooperation in all economic and other fields.

[Al-Sagor] Is it true that the door is open for other states to join the ACC?

[Mubarak] Of course. After laying down the conditions.

[Al-Sagor] Your Excellency the President, I have questions not related to politics. I have followed up all your interviews. They do not touch upon the personal or family aspect and I do not want to embarrass you. However, I have some light questions.

[Mubarak] I will answer or decline to answer whatever question I like. [pause omitted]

Mubarak Receives Mauritanian Justice Minister

At 2:00pm (ARST) on MENA in Arabic.
MUS GAIT 24 Sep 80

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENAs)—President Hosni Mubarak today received a message from Mauritanian

President Maouyda Guld Sal'Ahmed Taya dealing with bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

The president received the message during a meeting today with Mauritanian Justice Minister Mohamed Salem Guld Mohamed Lemine who arrived in Cairo yesterday. The meeting was attended by Justice Minister Faruq Say'ad-Nasr and Mauritanian Ambassador in Cairo Ahmed Seyyal Ahmed.

Lemine said that President Mubarak asked him to convey a message of greetings to the Mauritanian president. He added that these messages fall within the framework of the fraternal relations between Presidents Mubarak and Maouyda, particularly at this time when President Mubarak is making efforts to resolve the conflicts between Mauritania and Senegal and is playing a major role on the Arab, African, and international scenes.

Regarding the latest developments in the situation between Mauritania and Senegal, the Mauritanian minister said that the situation is calm, particularly since Mubarak's recent visit to the two countries. He added: We are waiting for the results of President Mubarak's mediation in his capacity as O.A.U. chairman. We hope that his mediation will result in resolving the conflict between the two countries.

Mauritanian Minister Departs

NC 2409120189 Cairo: MENA in Arabic
1010 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENAs)—Mauritanian Justice Minister Mohamed Salem Guld Mohamed left Cairo for home this morning following a 2-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he delivered a message to President Mubarak from the Mauritanian president.

He was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Ministry's chief of protocol and the members of the Mauritanian diplomatic mission in Cairo.

Mubarak To Attend ACC Summit in Sanaa 25 Sep

NC 2209113389 Cairo: MENA in Arabic
1130 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is due to visit Sanaa on Monday [25 September] to attend the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) higher committee meetings. All four leaders of the ACC states will take part. President Mubarak will receive a massive official and popular reception. Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), will meet President Mubarak at the airport. Senior YAR officials and Arab and foreign diplomats in Sanaa will also be present.

ACC Secretary General Dr Hilmi Nammour today said that the coming ACC summit will be an opportunity to form a consensus among the four ACC leaders vis-a-vis the current Arab and international situation. The

summit will take place at a crucial time for these conflicts in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

Mubarak Leaves for Sanaa

NC 2509120019 Cairo: MENA in Arabic
0604 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENAs)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Sanaa to attend the Arab Cooperation Council higher committee meetings. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Returns From Baghdad ACC Meeting

NC 1809120789 Cairo: Domestic Service
in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Aul Nidaj returned to Cairo from Baghdad yesterday evening at the head of a delegation that included Dr Kamal al-Jamali, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Eng Nulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications; Dr Yusuf Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Counsellor Faruq Say'ad-Nasr, minister of justice. The delegation members attended the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Ministerial Committee in Baghdad which began preparations on Friday for the ACC summit scheduled to convene in Sanaa at the end of September.

Usamah al-Baz Returns From Visit to Jordan

NC 1809065789 Cairo: MENA in Arabic
2141 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENAs)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, returned to Cairo tonight from Amman following a quick visit to Jordan for several hours.

During this visit, Dr al-Baz delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan.

Army Chief of Staff Departs for France

NC 1709085899 Cairo: MENA in Arabic
0710 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENAs)—Lieutenant General Say'ad-Den Abu-Shenal, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, left Cairo this morning for an official 4-day visit to France.

During the visit, Lt Gen Abu-Shenal will hold talks with the French defense minister and chief of staff on promoting military cooperation between the two countries.

He will also visit some French military installations and will lay a wreath at the French martyrs' memorial.

Ambassador to Israel Returns to Tel Aviv

NC 10050010389 Cairo: MENA in Arabic.
2145 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Bayuni left Cairo for his post in Tel Aviv tonight after having attended the discussions which were held by President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Palestinians From Territories Visiting Cairo

NC 1709160289 Cairo: MENA in Arabic.
1215 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that a delegation of prominent Palestinian figures from the occupied Arab territories is currently visiting Cairo within the framework of Egypt's efforts to learn about the conditions experienced by Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The delegation is made up of Jamil al-Tarzi, dozen of Palestinian journalists in the occupied territories; Radwan Abu-Abbas, a journalist in the occupied territories; Ghassan al-Shakab, a prominent trade unionist; and Hassan al-Narh, son of Shaykh Abd-al-Hamid al-Narh, speaker of the Palestine National Council, whom the Israeli military authorities deported from Jerusalem in 1971.

Meanwhile, responsible Palestinian sources have affirmed that the consultations between Palestinian and Egyptian leaders are continuing and have covered important points in the process to achieve the Palestinian ("people's") aspirations to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state so that security, peace, and stability can prevail in the Middle East.

Offer To Host Lebanese Parliament Meeting

JN1989181799 Cairo: AL-WAFD in Arabic.
18 Sep 89 pp. 1, 2

[B] "Abd-al-Nabi Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpts] Diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that Egypt has expressed its readiness to host a meeting of the Lebanese parliament to reach an agreement on the political reform charter proposed by the higher Arab tripartite committee. The sources added that Morocco and Algeria have also been named as potential hosts for this meeting. The most prominent Maronite Christian candidates for the Lebanese presidency are [National Bloc] leader Raymond Haddad and Edouard Naoum, director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, who is currently residing in Geneva.

Cairo will contact Washington and Tel Aviv to convince Israel to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. AL-WAFD

also learned that the Foreign Ministry instructed Egyptian ambassador to Lebanon Hasan Shakh to continue his contacts with all Lebanese parties to persuade them to respond favorably to the tripartite Arab committee's efforts. AL-WAFD learned, in addition, that Syria has accepted the paragraph pertaining to the establishment of the Lebanese state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Moreover, AL-WAFD was informed that Iraq has reaffirmed its adherence to a decision it made on 1 July stopping arms shipments to east Beirut.

Wali, Libyan Figure, Discusses Bilateral Relations

NC 1809105009 Cairo: MENA in Arabic.
2100 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—This evening Dr Yusef Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party (NDP), met with Dr 'Ali Ibrahim, chairman of both the Libyan Pharmacists Association and the Arab Pharmacists Federation. They discussed Egyptian-Libyan relations and ways to promote them.

After the meeting, Dr Wali stated that Egyptian-Libyan relations have recently witnessed a tangible improvement. He said that important Libyan personalities will be visiting Cairo during the coming few weeks.

The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmad Salama, assistant NDP secretary general and minister for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.

Libya

Al-Qadhafi Reportedly Closes PFLP-GC Offices

NC 2009161489 (Landestiny) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic. 2545 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut have reported that Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi has decided to close all the offices of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in Tripoli and other Libyan towns.

The same sources said that Libya has informed PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril of its refusal to join the new Syrian-Iranian-Lebanese-Palestinian alliance. The information was conveyed to Jibril prior to his departure for Iran, together with party delegations from Hizballah and the Amal movement. Libya has also refused to participate in periodic meetings held in Tehran and Damascus.

It has been learned that the PFLP-GC has begun moving some office furniture and equipment from the Libyan towns to the Syrian capital of Damascus.

Al-Qadhafi Distributes Farm Ownership Titles

LD2009187809 Tripoli: IANA in English
1637 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Al-Bayda, Al-Fatih [September] 23. IANSA, LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY.—The leader of the revolution this morning distributed the titles of benefit and ownership for a number of farms in the project of south Al-Jabal al-Akhdar at a massive popular ceremony held by the masses of the Basic People's Congresses at Zawiyat al-Mukharvia in the municipality of Al-Jabal al-Akhdar.

Amidst chantings of support for and pride in the great Al-Fatih revolution, the leader of the green March inspected the maps of the project and listened to illustrations by the engineers responsible for the project. Also the leader of the revolution toured a pilot agricultural residence with which each farm is supplied [passage omitted].

Al-Qadhafi Receives Sudanese Delegation

LD2109204089 Tripoli: Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Brigadier General al-Tijani Adam Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council in brotherly Sudan, and his accompanying delegation.

Delegation Leaves Tripoli

LD2409217509 Tripoli: IANA in Arabic
1720 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Sep (IANSAs)—Brigadier General al-Tijani Adam Tahir, member of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli this afternoon. Colonel Abu Bakr Yunus Jabi was at the forefront of those on hand to see him off.

He was also seen off by a number of officers of the armed people and the ambassador and staff of the Sudanese Embassy in Tripoli.

Brigadier General Tahir said in a statement to IANA prior to his departure, that the two fraternal countries are linked with strong ties, hence the need for continuous meetings with the brothers in the Great Jamahiriya, who are ahead of us in terms of experience and know-how, in order to have consultations and understanding and to benefit from their knowledge.

He also said that the common interests we are promoting are not only in the interest of the two peoples, but also in the interests of the entire Arab nation. This is the aim of the meetings and talks we have had, which were good and successful. We expected this from the brothers in the Jamahiriya.

Minister Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Chad Talks

LD2409244509 Dakar: FANA in French
1413 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Sep (FANAs)—Othman Bechari, Libyan minister of external relations and international cooperation, who is the leader of the Libyan delegation to the Joint Libyachad Commission, has expressed satisfaction over the results of the deliberations of the third meeting of that commission, which was held in the Libyan capital last week. In an exclusive statement to the FANAs correspondent in Tripoli, Mr Othman Bechari stressed that the negotiations took place in "a frank and brotherly atmosphere," pointing out that the Libyan side presented to the Chadian delegation proposals to implement the Algiers Agreement signed between the two countries on 31 August 1987.

The Libyan official pointed out that contacts between Presidents Mu'ammad al-Qadhafi and Hissni Habre continue through emissaries in order to strengthen bilateral relations.

"All pending issues between the two countries will be settled within the next few weeks," he continued, disclosing that two agreements will be signed during the fourth meeting of the joint commission to be held on 20 October 1989 in N'jamena. The agreements concern a treaty of brotherhood and good neighborliness and financial and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Bechari reaffirmed that Libya is always ready to give its support to the Republic of Chad for the redress of the economy of this brotherly African country as well as to participate in its reconstruction.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Zanrihar

LD2509275009 Dar es Salaam: Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli.—The Revolutionary Government of Zanrihar and the Government of Libya signed an agreement today aimed at setting up ties that will strengthen and enhance the two countries' economies. The agreement was signed in Tripoli by Comrade Jafar Mlaume Ali, Zanrihar minister of finance, and Mr Salim Muhammad Suwayd, director general of Libya's Department of Africa and International Relations. A Libyan statement said that when the agreement comes into operation, better trading between the two countries will start. Under the accord, Zanrihar and Libya also agreed to start joint ventures in important sectors of the economy. Experts from both sides will meet for discussions. The sectors are tourism, fisheries, industry, and agriculture.

The agreement follows talks between the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammad al-Qadhafi, and the Zanrihar chief minister, Dr Omar Ali Juma, and meetings in Tripoli between delegations from Zanrihar and Libya.

The statement further said that Libya had agreed in principle to help Zanhar in communications and health education.

Sudan

Government Arrests Communists, Seizes Arms

IN 2499/15889 Cases: MENA in Arabic
1113 (IMI) 24 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (MENAs)—Brigadier General Ibrahim Nayil, security adviser and member of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, has stated that several members of the dissolved Sudanese Communist Party have been arrested during the past few days.

In a statement to the Sudanese newspaper AL-INCJAH AL-WATANI published today, Brig Gen Nayil said that the detainees are now being interrogated. He added that they were arrested while carrying out illegal subversive activities in violation of the constitutional orders issued by the government and hostile to the national salvation revolution.

The Sudanese official also declared that the security authorities recently seized party weapons and a quantity of uranium that had been brought into the country for trading purposes.

Lt Gen al-Bashir Comments on Revolution

IN 2109/20349 Cases: AL-AHRAM in Arabic
20 Sep 89 p. 6

[Report on interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, by Mahmud Murad in Khartoum—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] And at last came my appointment with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, with whom I talked over the phone on the 3d day of the revolution when he singled out AL-AHRAM for the first press interview. The following day I flew to see him and have him recount to me the full story of the revolution.

This time, 75 days after that first meeting, he was more vivacious and lively. He saw me in his office at the Prime Ministry following a cabinet meeting and a meeting with the Algerian ambassador who is leaving his post to contest upcoming elections. The man willingly opened his mind and heart, and when his press secretary sought to set a time limit for the interview, Al-Bashir said AL-AHRAM should be exempted. He and the Egyptian and Arab, and particularly Saudi, press must be given the credit for familiarizing readers with the revolution and its aims from day one. We will not forget that and we will continue to recognize it. Neither will we forget Egypt's and President Mubarak's support from the very beginning of the revolution.

I said: I am not here for a traditional press interview but to be reassured about the revolution, now that it is approaching its 3rd month and its stability is the target of rumors.

Al-Bashir said: We are the target of not only external rumors but internal ones as well. Perhaps you do not know why I visited the city and Province of 'Atbara (northern Sudan) last week (his first outside Khartoum). It has been said in print and in broadcast media that there are labor strikes and that workers, specifically in 'Atbara, the major railway center, rose against the revolution and decided to mount civil disobedience. I, therefore, drove my car to the area, which I toured, and met with citizens and attended a popular rally in order to refute these allegations in person and expose their falseness.

Al-Bashir went on: The revolution achieved stability hours after it was proclaimed on June 30. But, as you know, all the Sudanese people are politicized, and so it is not possible to say that all the people agree with the revolution 100 percent. There is opposition but it is weak. There are vain attempts to rally people against us. We are not against opposition. On the contrary, we stand for a diversity of opinion and need criticism. Laughing, he added: We believe in the popular saying: Listen to what makes you cry rather than what makes you laugh.

I said to Gen al-Bashir: But over the past few weeks, you have had a number of politicians and others arrested.

He said: That is correct. They have exceeded the bounds of opposition and criticism by engaging in systematic action—holding meetings, distributing leaflets, and inciting the masses. I repeat that we are not against dissenting opinion but against clandestine organizations and sabotage. In any case, those detained since the revolution do not exceed 50 or 60 people. Practically each week sees those who are cleared by investigation released [passage omitted].

And the conversation with General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, prime minister, defense minister, and commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, continued and turned to relations with the country's neighbors. Frankly and spontaneously he answered: For the first time since Sudan's independence, there is now a great measure of understanding with Ethiopia based on mutual trust that had been lacking. Our relations are energetic and good thanks to brother President Hani Mubarak who has brought us closer together. Incidentally, we are extremely pleased by President Mubarak's election to the OAU chairmanship. We hope his tenure will see many problems resolved, and we vouch President Mubarak's stewardship at this particular juncture, coinciding with the early days of the revolution, as a golden opportunity—a Godsend that should give us a hand and promote a resolution of our problems.

As far as our relations with Goring go, he is taking a hardline position and talking about unenforceable conditions. We are certain, though, that the dialogue

between us and continues and that our joint efforts combined with those of such brothers as President Mubarak are bound to bring about peace. [passage omitted]

Concerning Iran: At the outset of the revolution, Iranian media—television, radio, and press—which we know to be state-controlled, took a hostile line and even called for a tough line by their government and blamed it for letting its ally, Al-Saduy al-Mahdi fall from office. There was tension in our relations. Then the Iranian charge d'affaires in Khartoum contacted Brother Brigadier General al-Zuhayr Muhammad Saleh, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister and officially apologized. On the whole, there are not any dealings between us and Iran; our relations with Iran are the kind of normal ties we have with an Asian state. There are no common interests between us.

I said to General al-Bashir: It has been said that an Iranian delegation came here secretly. He categorically denied this has happened. [passage omitted]

NSRCC Member Departs for Talks in Libya

E.12089/27289 Omdurman Domestic Service
in Arabic: 1700 GMT, 20 Sep 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier al-Liyan Adam al-Laban, member of the National Revolution Command Council (NSRCC), left for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya this morning. His visit will last several days. He will hold discussions with Libyan officials on bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade and economic matters.

Finance Minister on New Economic Policies

E.12109/14689 Omdurman Domestic Service
in Arabic: 1700 GMT, 20 Sep 89

[Text] Dr Nayef Ali Zaak, minister of finance and economic planning, has confirmed there will be no return to the policy of dependence on personal income in the way that prevailed before. In a statement to SUNA, he explained that an importer will not be allowed to save free [as heard] currency from the black market, but one who had a free currency account in banks in accordance with official income, would be allowed to import the products that were needed.

He pointed out in his statement that the increase in prices of subsidized commodities would be implemented gradually, especially bread and sugar. The aim was to achieve a balance between the actual cost of production and the declared price. He explained that the subsidy faced two problems: it did not reach those who deserved it, and secondly, there was the variable attitude of world economic policy toward subsidies. He added that there was an annual subsidy for petroleum products which reached more than 1.2 billion pounds. These products would now be imported at the official price.

On the implementation of minimum wages for employees in public establishments and companies, the

minister of finance explained that this would provide an avenue for workers' demands which the salvation revolution had [heard]. He pointed out that there were political and security implications in this area. It would be referred to the Council of Ministers for a decision. He explained that a halt to the imports of some products would be carried out in the medium term. This was to exploit the unemployed manpower in order to save free [as heard] currency.

Official, UK Envoy Discuss Peace Efforts

E.12109/11589 Khartoum SUNA in English
1715 GMT, 20 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 20th September—The British ambassador to Sudan has confirmed that Britain feels peace is the only chance before the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution. The British ambassador, who met here today with member of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council, NSRC, Brig Muhammad al-Amir Khalifah, described as "important" the conference of the national dialogue currently discussing the southern Sudan question. Nobody will say, Col Isma Garing, leader of the rebel forces, represents the whole Sudan. Al-Khalifah quoted the British official as saying:

Garing Said "Manipulated" by Communists

E.12209/33189 Khartoum SUNA in English
0805 GMT, 22 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Sep (MUNA)—Rebel leader John Garing is being manipulated by the communist trend inside his movement, according to Command Council member and Sudan security adviser, Brigadier Ibrahim Naeef Adam. He said in an interview with the government paper "AL-INSQAADH AL-WATANI" Friday that the Communists in the movement are inflaming the conflict so as to fish in the muddy waters. Brig Adam said the government has cornered the rebels through its surrounding African countries. He said officials in the African countries are now convinced about the inconsistency of the slogans raised by the rebels.

Paper Claims SPLA "Terrorizing" Ugandans

E.12209/166009 Khartoum SUNA in English
0800 GMT, 22 Sep 89

[Text] Kampala, 22 Sep (SUNA)—The Ugandan official paper "NEW NATION" [as received] said SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel troops have crossed into northern Uganda's Moyo District and started terrorizing the population there. The paper Thursday [21 September] said the rebel troops of Garing had burnt down houses, uprooting cassava crops and in many cases clashed with Ugandan troops, resulting in "heavy damages." It said in one case the rebel troops have entered a hospital, removing patients and asked to be given priority in treatment of their wounded.

Relief Supply Convoy Reaches Malakal

LD/199165489 *Tunisia Domestic Service*
in Arabic: IADR/GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] The second convoy of river barges arrived at Malakal the day before yesterday, carrying about 1,700 tonnes of relief items to Upper Nile Region. They will be distributed to the affected areas around Kosti and Malakal, which include Kaka, Leth, Let, Matet and Wau Shiluk. Some of the items will be sent to affected areas in southern Malakal, including the towns of Nasir, Adong and Akobo. This was stated by Mr. Muhammad Kamel Shawqi, commissioner general for relief and rehabilitation.

Tunisia

PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on Visit

Meets With Eschirikh

LD/249914569 *Tunisia Domestic Service*
in Arabic: IADR/GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Recently, there has been a persistent push in cooperation between Tunisia and China, and the official visit to Tunisia by Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen, which began today [24 September], comes within that framework. The PRC minister had talks this morning with Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Eschirikh.

Qian Qichen, PRC minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Tunis this morning on a 3-day official visit. He made a statement in which he expressed his great pleasure at

visiting Tunisia, which is renowned for its breathtaking scenery, in response to an invitation by the minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Qian added that his presence in Tunisia would be a good opportunity to meet the leaders of the state of Palestine and officials of the Arab League. He stressed that the visit would be successful. [passage omitted]

Further on Talks

LD/199165489 *Tunisia Domestic Service*
in Arabic: IADR/GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] A Tunisian-Chinese working session was held yesterday [24 September] at the Foreign Ministry, chaired by Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Eschirikh and his Chinese counterpart.

TAF has learned that during the session there was an exchange of views and consultations on the political and economic experience in both countries, a discussion on bilateral cooperation, and a review of a number of current international issues.

In reviewing the situation in the Greater Arab Maghreb and the Middle East, the Chinese side noted the importance of the role played by Tunisia in setting up the Arab Maghreb Union and in tackling Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian question, and the fact that Tunisia harbors the headquarters of the Arab League and the PLO command. On a bilateral level, the two sides noted with satisfaction the development and variety of trade between the two countries, stressing their readiness to boost industrial cooperation, particularly by hastening the study of prospective joint ventures.

Bahrain

Defence Minister Meets Bangladesh Delegation

JN/00940000 Manama 10:41H in English
1540 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Manama, Sept 23 (UNA)—Deputy Amir of Bahrain Shaykh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa met here today with a Bangladeshi military delegation headed by Maj. Gen. Ghulam Muqadder, currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Defence Minister and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force Maj. Gen. Shaykh Khalifa bin Ahmad Al Khalifa and the Bangali charge d'affaires in Bahrain Abdul Momin Chowdhury.

Kuwait

Amir Departs for 3-Day Official Visit to Iraq

LD/009401309 Kuwait 10:14H in English
0800 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 23 (UNA)—His highness the amir left home Saturday for Baghdad on a three-day official visit, at the invitation of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

His highness the amir heads a ranking delegation that includes state ministers for foreign affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-Usaym and for cultural affairs Rashid al-Rashid, finance minister Jassem al-Kharafi, Kuwait's ambassador to Iraq Jassem al-Bahar, secretary of the Amiri Diwan Muhammad Darwish al-Arabi, director of his highness the amir's office Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti and a number of senior officials at the Amiri Diwan and Foreign Ministry.

It also includes board chairman and director general of the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY chairman of the Kuwaiti Journalists Society and chief editors of daily newspapers.

His highness was seen off by his highness the deputy amir and crown prince Shaykh Sa'ud al-Abdullah al-Sabah, head of the National Guards Shaykh Salim al-Ah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber, minister of the Amiri Diwan affairs, shaykhs, ministers and other ranking state officials.

Editorials Welcome Amir's Visit to Iraq

LD/009404189 Kuwait 10:14H in English
0800 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 23 (UNA)—Five Kuwaiti newspapers Saturday in unison hailed his highness the amir's visit to Iraq, agreeing that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi summit is especially important against the backdrop of key political developments in the Arab world.

AL-WATAN said that the visit acquires added significance because it comes as Iraq is emerging from an eight-year war.

The paper said in an editorial Kuwait and Iraq have key roles in championing fair causes of the Arab nation and therefore, the visit of his highness the amir to Baghdad will produce "positive and fruitful results."

The Iraq-Kuwait summit, it said, will certainly bolster joint Arab action on such fateful issues as Palestine, the Lebanese crisis and peace in the Gulf region.

AL-SYANAH daily said in an editorial Kuwait and Iraq have a lot of cooperation areas to talk about especially that Iraq is now building what the war with Iran had destroyed.

It said that through the geographical proximity between Kuwait and Iraq and deeply rooted historical ties between them, the two sides can now work together to restore to the region the prosperity that has been marred by the years of war.

AL-QABAN saw the importance of the amir's visit from a different angle, as it said that economic woes were the main concern of the two Arab groupings to which Iraq and Kuwait respectively belong.

The paper (less in its editorial the Iraq-Kuwait summit was thus of special importance because it can put the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Cooperation Council on the same track when the two deal with other global economic blocs.

The paper also said political talks between his highness the amir and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn were important in view of signs that peaceful solutions in Lebanon and Palestine were in the making.

KUWAIT TIMES spoke of a touch of durability and steadfastness in the relations between Baghdad and Kuwait and said the amir's meeting with the Iraqi president "will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the cause of Arab solidarity."

Like the other three Kuwaiti dailies, KUWAIT TIMES saw added importance in the amir's visit to Iraq in the fact that the two leaders would discuss Lebanon and the Palestinian question along with the Iraq-Iraq peace negotiations.

"We hope their meeting will lend forceful impetus to the ongoing peace efforts on Palestine, Lebanon and the Gulf conflict," the paper said.

AL-ANBA daily meanwhile dug into poetry and history to speak about the deep love that have bound Iraqis and Kuwaitis.

The paper recalled that Kuwait has stood by the side of Iraq during the war and said it will continue to do so as the two neighbors consolidate bonds between them.

Iran Embassy Denies Links With Mecca Blast

JN2099112109 Tehran IRNA in English
1043 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept. 23. IRNA—Iran's Embassy in Kuwait in a statement Saturday categorically denied any connection between the staff of the embassy and 16 Kuwaitis executed in Saudi Arabia on Thursday charged with involvement in last July bomb explosions in Mecca.

The embassy referred to "fabricated statements" of the defendants as "totally baseless and irrational."

The statement, copies of which were sent to Kuwait media, stressed that none of the names and identities given by the defendants as their contacts in the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait, could be found among the embassy staff there.

The embassy repeating what it referred to as "condemns of defendants of bombing in Mecca" broadcast by Saudi television last night, said it was not clear under what circumstances they had been forced to make such irrational allegations.

The Saudi regime, in a propaganda television show Thursday night, attributed false fabrications to the defendants on the connection of a group of Kuwaiti hajj pilgrims with the staff of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait and delivery of explosives to them through the Iranian Embassy.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Minister in a statement today rejected "baseless" accusations of the Saudi Government on the involvement of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait in Mecca bombings during hajj rituals last year. The statement placed the responsibility of the bombings on the Saudi Government.

Police Disperse Shiites Protesting Executions

JN2099162809 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab
World 1530 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti police today dispersed a group of Shiites who demonstrated in front of the Saudi Embassy to protest the execution of Kuwaiti Shiites in Jeddah [as heard].

Minister on Arms Deals, Amir's France Visit

JN209919109 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic
23 Sep 89 p 4

[Interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nopwail al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah by Ahmad al-Dawari; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Dawari] On the occasion of the imminent visit to France by his highness the amir, will the two countries conclude military agreements or arms deals?

[Al-Sabah] The visit of his highness the amir to Paris comes in response to the invitation extended by French

President Francois Mitterrand in light of the strong relations between the two countries.

During the visit, ways of cooperation between the two countries will be discussed. Subjects of common interest to the Third World, including the problem of debt burdening the peoples of these countries, will also be discussed.

It is not likely that military topics will be discussed during the visit, especially since the Ministry of Defense has no representative in the official talks between the leaderships of the two countries. But such cooperation between France and Kuwait exists; it is a firm cooperation in military aspects. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dawari] Kuwait is adopting a wise armament policy based essentially on the diversification of arms sources. Will you continue this policy? And are there certain criteria governing arms deals?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait is always eager to choose the arms that suit its environment and Armed Forces. This is its policy. At the same time, it does not depend on a single type of weaponry; it is eager to diversify sources of arms, whether from the East or the West. This is our policy of diversification, which we will continue. This policy is based on two factors: Sustainability of arms to our environment and Armed Forces, and the diversification of arms sources.

[Al-Dawari] What about the exchange of expertise between Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council states in this respect?

[Al-Sabah] There is an exchange of expertise and full cooperation between Kuwait and its sister countries. This cooperation, exchange and coordination did not come about only in the just few years; it had existed before the Gulf war erupted, and it is now continuing and on the increase.

[Al-Dawari] Your excellency, over the past period Kuwait was subjected to some acts of aggression. Now the situation is reassuring, and security in the region is almost complete. How do you evaluate the situation in the region especially after the end of the Iraq-Iran war and the relative calm now prevailing in the region?

[Al-Sabah] We must be fully ready, during times of both war and peace, to maintain Kuwait's security and stability. We are ready to confront any emergency if it occurs, God forbid. But as we go through a state of peace, we hope that this peace will dominate the region and that a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace will be achieved between the two warring Muslim neighbors. We hope that an agreement will be reached so that calm and stability can return to the region, although there has actually been relative calm since the cease-fire was effected. We once again hope that a just peace will prevail so that the countries of the region can use this for development and human welfare.

As I said, we are fully ready to face any emergency, and there is no reason for introducing a state of emergency [passage omitted]

Oman

Petroleum Minister Meets With PDRY Counterpart

JN2604156N: Mutual Domestic Service
in Arabic. 1800 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The first session of official talks was held at the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals building this morning between the Sultanate and the fraternal People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The Omani side is

the talks was headed by His Highness Sayid bin Ahmad al-Shantari, minister of petroleum and minerals, and the PDRY side by His Highness Salih Abu-Baki bin-Husayman, Central Committee member, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals in the PDRY, who is currently visiting the country. The talks centered on aspects of cooperation in the field of petroleum and minerals and on exploring the two countries' expertise in this area.

During the session, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the relations between the two brotherly countries and the possibility of developing these relations to serve the interests of them both.

Kuwaiti Delegation Conducts Official Visit

Amir Arrives 23 Sep

JN209015500 Baghdad INA in English
1500 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 23, 1990—Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah arrived here this morning on a several-day official visit to Iraq.

The amir of Kuwait was accorded an official welcome, on the forefront of which was President Saddam Husayn.

When the special plane of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad arrived he was warmly welcomed by President Saddam Husayn who congratulated the amir of Kuwait on the safe arrival. Then President Husayn shook hands with the members of the delegation accompanying Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

The amir of Kuwait shook hands with the senior officials who received him and they were members of the Revolution Command Council: Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan first deputy premier, Mr. Taha Muhiyi-al-Din Mar'uf vice president and Mr. Tariq 'Aziz deputy premier and foreign minister. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad also shook hands with the Iraqi ambassador in Kuwait.

President Saddam Husayn and the amir of Kuwait mounted the platform and the Kuwaiti and Iraqi national anthems were played and 21 artillery shots were fired on the honour of the great guest of Iraq, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

President Husayn and the amir of Kuwait inspected then the guards of honour. Then two Baghdad children offered President Husayn and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad two bouquets to express the warm welcome of the Iraqi people to the amir of Kuwait.

Then the amir of Kuwait shook hands with members of the Revolution Command Council, the ministers, senior officials and the ambassador and Embassy staff of Kuwait in Baghdad.

After a short rest in the grand VIP hall during which President Husayn and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad exchanged cordial talks, president Husayn accompanied the amir of Kuwait in an official motorcade and had a free tour of Baghdad during which Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad viewed the cultural and civilizational sites of the city of Baghdad which enjoyed the victory with pride. The tour lasted about an hour and then the motorcade arrived in the residence of the amir of Kuwait.

The official delegation accompanying Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad consists of Mr. Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid minister of state for cabinet affairs, Mr. Jassem Muhammad al-Kharafi minister of finance, Mr. Sa'ud Muhammad al-Udayni minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Muhammad Darwish al-'Aradi head of the Emir's Dewan, Mr. Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti

director of the amir's office and the ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Baghdad.

Saddam, Amir Open Talks

JN2090175000 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] A round of official talks was held this evening between the Republic of Iraq and the fraternal State of Kuwait. His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn led the Iraqi side of the talks, while the fraternal Kuwaiti side was headed by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait.

At the outset of the talks, His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn welcomed His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the fraternal State of Kuwait, and voiced his happiness over seeing his arrival as a dear guest to the Iraqi people, who harbor deep sentiments of affection, appreciation, and respect for his highness the amir.

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn voiced his and the Iraqi people's appreciation for the courageous, fraternal and far-sighted stands taken by Kuwait—amir, government, and people—vis-à-vis Iraq throughout the Iranian aggression against Iraq which was, in essence, an aggression launched against the entire Arab nation.

For his part, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, paid tribute to Iraq's steadfastness and congratulated the president on the victories scored thanks to the courage and heroism of the Iraqi combatants and people. He affirmed that the stands taken by Kuwait toward Iraq during the aggression stemmed from its pan-Arab sentiments and also from its faith in a common destiny and a common Arab fate. His highness the Kuwaiti amir hailed the Iraqi people's courage and steadfastness, which were behind the victory scored against the aggression.

The talks dealt with the warm, fraternal, and strong ties existing between the two fraternal countries and ways to develop them in all spheres. The talks also dealt with current Arab issues.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yassin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council (RCC) member and first deputy prime minister, Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister, and Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister, Latif Nawayyif Jassem, culture and information minister, 'Abdullah Fadi, minister of awqaf and religious affairs and head of the escort mission accompanying his highness the amir, and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait also attended the talks.

For fraternal Kuwait, the talks were attended by the delegation accompanying his highness the amir. This delegation comprises Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, Jassem Muhammad

al-Kharafi, finance minister, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Udaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, Muhammad Darwish al-'Arabi, head of the Amiri Court, Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti, head of the amir's office, and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Baghdad.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Al-'Udaymi

JN2409110889 Baghdad IN:1 in English
1000 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 24, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today Mr. Sa'ud al-'Udaymi, the Kuwaiti state minister for foreign affairs.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and the latest developments of the situation in the Arab region were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry and ambassadors of both countries in Baghdad and Kuwait.

Economic Talks Staged

JN2409114189 Baghdad IN:1 in Arabic
2045 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—Husayn Kamel Husayn, minister of industry and military industries, met this evening with Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, the Kuwaiti finance minister.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance bilateral ties of cooperation in the industrial and economic spheres between the two fraternal countries.

The two sides voiced satisfaction over the development of bilateral ties and reaffirmed the common desire of the two countries to bolster them, based on the fraternal relations existing between the two peoples.

Saddam, Amir Meet Again

JN2409161559 Baghdad IN:1 in Arabic
1520 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and his brother Shaykh Jabr al-Ahmad al-Jabr al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, held a second round of talks in Baghdad at noon today. During this round of talks, the two sides resumed their official talks which began in Baghdad yesterday. The talks dealt with promoting their close fraternal relations in all areas and reviewed current developments in the Arab scene.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council (RCC) member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Latif Nayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information. On the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, minister of finance and planning, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Udaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Muhammad Darwish al-'Arabi, head of the Amiri Court.

President Saddam Husayn gave a special luncheon banquet to honor His Highness Shaykh Jabr al-Ahmad al-Jabr al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait. It was attended by a number of the members of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations.

Kuwaiti Amir Concludes Visit

JN2509080759 Baghdad IN:1 in Arabic
0720 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabr al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 3-day official visit to Iraq (passage omitted).

Shamir's Associates Say Unity Hinges on Rabin

FAZ40903/1789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The prime minister's associates say that the responsibility for preserving the unity government lies with the Alignment, and in particular Minister Yitzhak Rabin. They told our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz that the Likud-Alignment crisis has still not abated and that the prime minister has no intention of reneging on the political initiative. According to the prime minister's intimates, the Alignment ministers are not being faithful to the Cabinet's basic guidelines and resolutions.

Aides Say Rabin Acting Within Guidelines

FAZ409074089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0730 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The arguments in the unity government are continuing. Prime Minister Shamir's office has warned Ministers Peres and Rabin against pursuing activity to promote President Mubarak's initiative, because this will lead to the dissolution of the coalition. The Alignment ministers are acting in contravention of Cabinet resolutions and basic guidelines, Shamir's office says, adding: "The prime minister will not budge from his position."

The defense minister's associates this morning rejected the contentions by the Prime Minister's Office, arguing that Yitzhak Rabin is acting within the framework of the government's basic guidelines and in accordance with its peace initiative.

Cabinet Meets, Aids Views on 'Controversy'

FAZ409120189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The Cabinet meeting ended a short while ago. Although the meeting dealt mainly with the fire on Mount Carmel, the ministers were not deprived of a discussion of the continuing political controversy between the Likud and the Alignment. Our political correspondent Natan Guttman reports:

[Begin recording] [Guttman] Good day to you from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The political issue was not on the Cabinet's agenda, although it was raised tangentially.

The main issues were Minister Peres' remarks in the United States regarding the Mubarak plan. After the debate, the prime minister addressed the problem, saying that while abroad ministers may express views only on matters pertaining to their ministry. Any remarks made on other issues, said Shamir, require prior coordination with the Foreign Ministry.

After the Cabinet meeting, we listened to two ministers who aired their views on the matter. Likud Minister Ehud Olmert made his point first, followed by Moshe Shahal from the Alignment:

[Olmert] I do not deny Peres' right to state his views on foreign issues, and even fight for his stands in the framework of Cabinet meetings. What I do deny is his right to conduct unauthorized political contacts overseas without the knowledge of the prime minister and the foreign minister.

[Shahal] I think the assertion is absolutely unfounded. Those who made it either forgot Camp David, or have not read the Camp David accords thoroughly. I advise them to rush to a library at once. The Camp David accords set down a process in which outside Palestinians may be included. Is this not the issue over which everyone is making such a fuss?

[Guttman] Now to the political issue. On the initiative of Minister Rafi Eidi, the Alignment ministers met after the Cabinet meeting. It was agreed that Minister Ron Milo will be the one to answer the political motions in the Knesset on behalf of the Cabinet. It was also decided that Minister Milo will propose that the motions be struck off the Knesset agenda. It was further agreed that the Cabinet will issue no political statement before the Likud and the Alignment reach an agreement on the issue. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Arrest Regulations Approved

FAZ409194289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The Cabinet today endorsed regulations, which had previously been approved by all the judicial levels, governing the arrest of masked men. The new regulations permit the use of firearms in cases of resistance to arrest.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the defense minister told the Cabinet that in the wake of the change in policy a slight drop is already discernible in the activities of masked men in the Gaza Strip. This has in turn led to an increase in the number of applications for permits to work within the boundaries of the Green Line. According to Rabin, 8,000 repeat applications for work permits have been submitted so far, apparently by people whose permits were taken away from them. In all, 72,000 permits to work in Israel have been issued to inhabitants of the Gaza Strip.

Speaking in today's Cabinet session, the defense minister and the deputy chief of staff said they hoped the Syrians would abide by the clause in the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon which calls for the phased withdrawal of their troops. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the two today briefed the Cabinet on recent developments in Lebanon, and pointed out that it is hard to tell whether the cease-fire is a temporary or permanent lull. Nevertheless, they said they hoped all agreements would be upheld, including those referring to a phased Syrian withdrawal, the removal of the blockade on the ports, and the end of the shelling.

As for the situation in southern Lebanon, Rabin and Barak said the number of attempts to attack Israeli Army

and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops had slightly risen last week. Security sources expressed their satisfaction with the progress made by the SLA, and pointed out that this is the only force which includes Shiites, Christians, and Druze.

Prime Minister Shamir Planning 'New' Initiative

T 12500054889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir intends to formulate a new Israeli initiative in response to the Egyptian plan. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir has learned that the prime minister asked his aides to put together a think tank in order to prepare a new initiative in the hope of neutralizing the Egyptian proposal. This decision stems, among other things, from the fear of the Israeli public's reaction to the Egyptian initiative and also from the Egyptian proposal's growing popularity in the United States.

Sources close to the prime minister have said that for the time being, no compromise seems apparent in the argument between the prime minister and Defense Minister Rabin. Sources in the Prime Minister's office believe that Rabin's readiness to agree to the Egyptian proposal will not be accepted in the Inner Cabinet.

'Sources' Say No Counterinitiative Considered

T 12500071589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Sources in the Prime Minister's Office this morning stressed that the government's peace initiative is the only one hanging upon Israel and no other proposal, such as a counterinitiative to the Egyptian proposal of convening a meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation, is under consideration. The Prime Minister's Office denied that a think tank has already been set up to formulate such a counterproposal.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir points out that reliable sources in the top echelon of the Likud told him that there is indeed an intention to prepare a counterproposal to the Egyptian initiative, but this proposal will only address the issue of the delegation and will not contravene the Israeli peace initiative.

Rabin Denies Change in Stance on Initiative

T 12500076489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin by Me'ir Einsteim—live]

[Excerpts] [Einsteim] Good morning, Mr. Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Einsteim] Some people say that since your meeting with Secretary of State Baker, you have altered your positions.

[Rabin] I didn't think I was among the members of the Labor Party who, following the recent elections, pushed for setting up a national unity government. This was because I believed that a wide basis of national consensus is necessary both for peace and for war, and that means an agreement between the two major political blocs. Second, I was among the main partners, together with others, in formulating the Israeli Government's peace initiative as endorsed on 14 May 1989. Third, I saw the heart of the initiative in the fourth clause, which deals with the question of holding elections among the residents of the territories to elect a Palestinian representation. We would then negotiate with this representation in order to extricate ourselves from the present situation in two stages, with the object being a permanent solution—namely, peace with Jordan and some sort of solution to the Palestinian problem. I am still committed to all this.

The central question is how, and in which framework, can we implement this, the fundamental core of the Israeli initiative. For this purpose, and with the Cabinet's agreement, we appealed to the United States to help implement the initiative. We did this while aware of the fact that the United States holds contacts with the PLO. What the United States does is its own business. We turned to the United States with our request. The foreign minister, while visiting Egypt, also appealed to the Egyptians for help. [passage omitted]

[Einsteim] Mr. Rabin, do you think we should adopt the proposal to conduct a referendum to resolve the issue?

[Rabin] Look, it is an idea. I think we should first deal with the practical issues. I would like the national unity government to continue. I feel that everything that has been suggested remains within the framework of the peace initiative because the contents of the proposals constitute no change. The question is only whether to accept the initiative for a meeting to be called by Egypt, with Egypt publishing the composition of the delegation after receiving Israel's endorsement. [passage omitted]

[Einsteim] Mr. Rabin, this morning we heard that the prime minister is putting together a think tank to formulate a counterinitiative to the Egyptian proposal. What is your opinion of this?

[Rabin] I know nothing of this matter. I just heard it on the radio. If the purpose is to really search for ways to implement the initiative or, in other words, to attempt to find a way to conduct elections among the residents of the territories to choose a delegation to start moving things on the basis of the government's peace initiative, then it seems clear that there can be different approaches to this matter.

If this report is correct, it only means that whoever makes a certain proposal with the aim of implementing the initiative or of getting it moving is not deviating from the government's guidelines nor from its peace initiative. I believe that the problem we are facing is

simple. How do we implement the core, the central issues, of the peace initiative, according to the Cabinet resolution?"

[Einstein] Mr. Rabin, let us sum things up. At the moment there seems to be no bridging the differences between the Likud and the Alignment. Do you think the government is heading toward dissolution?"

[Rabin] I am still dealing with only one thing: how to further the Israeli Government's peace initiative without compromising any of its essential components—elections among the residents of the territories to choose a delegation with whom we will negotiate. The negotiations will involve an interim stage, in accordance to the timetable specified in the peace initiative, with the hope of later holding negotiations for a permanent solution which would include peace with Jordan and some form of solution to the Palestinian problem. The preparatory stage is just a dialogue, not negotiations.

[Einstein] Thank you, Defense Minister Rabin.

Arms Contends Mubarak-Shamir Meeting Needed

TEL AVIV 15:00N Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
22 Sep 89 p. A3

[“Exclusive” report from Los Angeles by Beni Londoni]

[Excerpted] “If Egyptian President Mubarak wants to raise a certain argument at the bargaining table, he must present it directly to his Israeli counterpart, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.” Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told HA'ARETZ yesterday.

He claimed that all substantial moves to promote the peace initiative require close cooperation between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister. He also said a meeting between the two leaders should not be made conditional upon guaranteeing its success in advance, as President Mubarak has requested.

The foreign minister justified the Egyptian leader's right to appeal directly to the citizens of Israel through the media. “Only in countries ruled by tyrants, with no free press, are such methods forbidden,” he said. [passage omitted]

He rejected the assumption that in a tripartite Baker-Ahmad-al-Majid-Arens meeting, Egyptian-U.S. pressure would be applied on him to adopt Mubarak's 10 points. “Baker,” he said, “has publicly declared that he views the Israeli peace initiative as ‘the only show in town.’” [passage omitted]

Mitterrand, Weizman Urge Negotiations With PLO

TEL AVIV 15:00N Tel Aviv AL-HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
22 Sep 89 p. 1

[Report from Paris by Arnon Vale]

[Text] Following a meeting with French President Mitterrand in the Elysee yesterday, Science and Technology Minister Ezer Weizman said France and the Europeans were waiting to see the outcome of the Mubarak initiative and the plan for elections in the territories. So, for the moment, Weizman added, the Europeans will not interfere in the process.

Mitterrand told Weizman that “it is not wise to come out against the election plan because it is the only practical technique that would bring the Israelis and the Palestinians to talks.” Weizman presented the Israeli Government's position and briefed Mitterrand on the Mubarak-Rabin meeting in Cairo.

Mitterrand said that Israel was wasting its time refusing to talk to ‘Arafat. Instead of holding direct talks with him, indirect contacts are being held. At the same time, Mitterrand said he understood that there are psychological barriers, and noted that it is still better to talk to the PLO via Egypt than not to talk to it at all.

Weizman is the first Israeli minister to be received in the Elysee since ‘Arafat's visit to Paris. “He invited me because of my views, which advocate talking to ‘Arafat,” Weizman said after his meeting with Mitterrand. Mitterrand has not forgotten the attacks on him by Israeli and the Jewish world for seeing ‘Arafat. He told Weizman that he did not at all appreciate these attacks. Weizman told Mitterrand that “the same Israeli leaders who were angry with him for the meeting are currently engaged in indirect contacts with ‘Arafat through Mubarak.”

Weizman's impression is that Mitterrand is ready for reconciliation and the renewal of close ties with Israel, and he would even be prepared to see Prime Minister Shamir if he requests a meeting. Relations have already begun to improve through the ministerial meetings. Mitterrand never mentioned the idea of an international conference, which has so far been desired. Weizman asked that Europe wait and let the Egyptian initiative run its course. He said in the Elysee that Egypt is one of the keys to a settlement. “Europe will have a role to play in the settlement itself, but not now when a way to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is still being sought,” added Weizman.

In a news conference, Weizman told Jewish reporters who criticized his positions that “the time has come to count Israel's friends and stop imagining that there are enemies behind every bush. Israel has many friends. To sit back and say that they all hate us is a mistake. We must turn these foes into friends.”

[In a related item on Weizman's meetings in Paris, Yoram Tucker, writing in Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on page A3 reports that Weizman described his conversation with Mitterrand as “very interesting.” Weizman reported that he told Mitterrand that “despite the political dispute among the members of the Cabinet now, the dissolution of the government now would serve no one.” Weizman also said that it is a mistake to criticize

Mitterrand for meeting Arafat because "Mubarak, with whom Rabin talked a few days ago in Cairo, met with Arafat the day before and the day after that meeting. This was a form of indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO leader. So why should we select Mitterrand as the butt for criticism?" Weizman noted that "we are engaged in indirect negotiations with the PLO through the Americans, who meet with PLO representatives in Tunis, and through Egypt. It would be more honorable and respectable for us to meet our foes face to face to find a peaceful solution to our problems," said Weizman.

SHAS' Der'i Favors Referendum on Peace Issue

*TEL AVIV 21589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 24 Sep 89*

[Excerpt] In an interview with our correspondent this morning, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Minister Arye Der'i said that if the unity government is disbanded, there will be no narrow-based government. If it becomes necessary, we will participate in early elections, said Der'i.

[Begin Der'i recording] If the Alignment decides to butt the government at some stage, I assure you that the only solution will be elections, rather than a Likud-led narrow-based government. Both Shamir and the Alignment know this. [passage omitted]

If you ask me how the situation can be saved, I will tell you this. Perhaps we are now sufficiently mature to hold a referendum. The government will thus continue to function, and we will accept the people's decision on whether or not they want peace and whether they wish to promote the political process. We will certainly accept their judgment. [end recording]

[Later on the program, Deputy Finance Minister Yoni Benish reacts to Der'i's remarks by saying: "I would like to endorse Rabbi Der'i's views. This is a bad time to disband the government, because we have a chance to make a political move that is liable to be delayed if the government ceases to exist. I am very much in favor of a referendum that would tell us whether or not the nation wants peace."]

NRP Rejects 10 Points; Backs Hammer Proposal

*TEL AVIV 0061589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Sep 89*

[Excerpt] The Mubarak proposal has sparked sharp differences in another coalition partner, the National Religious Party [NRP]. The NRP's Bureau has rejected the 10 points, but it endorsed the proposal by Cabinet Minister Yitzhak Hammer that calls for negotiations with a Palestinian delegation in which the Palestinians could raise the 10 points as their position. The NRP Bureau adopted this approach against the advice of party leader Minister Avner Shashoua.

Reporter David Essing asked Professor Scuka this morning whether he and Yizhak Hammer are now involved in a personal clash.

[Begin recording] [Scuka] Not at all. As I said, when it comes to the essential problem, there is a unanimity. The one point where we differed is when he said that he and some of his colleagues said that we ought to meet with the Palestinians through Mr. Mubarak, while I said, "We have to do with Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; we do not need any mediator. We have been the first, the initiators of this peace initiative. We would like to talk to those Palestinians who live in, as I said, Samaria, in Gaza, in Judaea, while those living outside—who still think about the return which we all oppose—should not take any part in it. I believe this is what is going to be."

[Essing] Professor Scuka, if there is a government breakup, if the Labor and Likud parties part company, will you try and join a narrow coalition with one of these parties—perhaps with Prime Minister Shamir and the Likud?

[Scuka] No. We made it clear that we will do our best not to join any narrow government, because we think that the country needs—now more than ever—a united government. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Government Urged To Accept Egyptian Mediation

*TEL AVIV 154789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
22 Sep 89 p. B1*

[Commentary by Poles, "Egypt Will Be the Support"]

[Excerpt] Upon his return from his meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo, the defense minister told reporters that he, Yitzhak Rabin, had agreed that Egypt would be the one to announce the Palestinian delegation's composition. The composition, said Rabin, would be announced after consultations with "all the involved parties, whom I would not like to specify, but who include Israel." One may conclude from this that the Egyptian leader is willing to grant Israel a certain degree of influence over the composition of that delegation, but one also may guess who are the parties that Rabin refused to name. One is tempted to guess that the defense minister was hinting at the PLO leadership; otherwise, he would not have wrapped himself in such a heavy cloak of diplomatic silence. This silence was needed to avoid arousing the Likud's immediate, open fury.

Rabin cannot, however, escape from their anger. One need not be a "peace minister"—Sharon, Levi, or Modai—to realize that while in Cairo, Rabin accepted the fact that the Egyptian president is obliged to consult with PLO/Tunisia regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation. On this condition only will he have the power to mold it into what he deems more or less desirable. Mubarak wants Israel to let him exchange ideas with Arafat; he does not intend to give up the

traditional Egyptian patronage over the PLO, which is an asset to Egypt's policy as a country waving the Arab banner.

Rabin did not object to that. Furthermore, he even agreed to have Egypt assist in arranging an encounter between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations that would prepare for the elections in the territories. He also agreed that Egypt would send out the invitations to this encounter, thus bestowing on it the glory of the encounter's initiator. Rabin even did not deny his friend's request that Egypt "announce" the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

It is obvious that Husni Mubarak wants to influence the composition of the Palestinian delegation, herald its completion, and arrange the encounter. Rabin was willing to let him enjoy this occasion.

David Levi, deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister, asserted that Egypt wants to arbitrate between Israel and the PLO. The statement is exaggerated, but it contains a grain of truth. If the Government of Israel does not abjure the Rabin-Mubarak agreement of last Monday, the inference would be that Israel recognizes Egypt's centrality in the next stages of the political process.

Had Shamer not sabotaged the potential implementation of the London agreement 2 and 3 years ago, the situation would not have arisen in which Israel is pleased to perform with the Egyptian president's self-assumed efforts to persuade the PLO leadership to allow the Arab residents of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem to participate in the elections proposed by Israel. Nor would Israel be forced by the circumstances to propose such elections. We could have solved the problem of the Palestinian residents of the occupied territories together with Jordan, which—as a result of the generations-old tensions between the Hashemite dynasty and the national Palestinian movement—is both a weaker and a more convenient partner.

The anti-Hashemite tendency, however so deeply entrenched in the constitution of the disciples of the Revisionist Movement dating back to the British White Paper of 1922, prevented it. And Rabin, the graduate of the Ahdut Ha'avoda [Labor Unity] Movement, which was not fond of Emir 'Abdallah, either, no longer sees any way to resolve the complex conflict between us and the national Palestinian movement emboldened by the PLO for over 20 years, other than by grasping Egypt's extended hand. Now it will be up to him to convince Shamer and the Likud leaders that there is no escape from this solution. He can postpone this effort until Shimon Peres and Moshe Arens—who heard from the Egyptian president the same words Rabin heard—return from the United States, but the effort must be made.

The Likud people can scream all they want in their attacks against Yitzhak Rabin who is, in fact, conversing with the PLO leadership. There is, however, no one to save them and us from making this effort. The only

achievement of which we can be still be proud lies in the fact that Israel talks with the PLO only indirectly, that is, through Egypt. Bypassing the PLO altogether, however, is a totally unattainable goal. The Egyptian mediation and the Egyptian influence over the PLO may even be the only way through which we can ensure that the Palestinian entity—even if recognized as a state by the end of the peace process—will not be too much of a burden on us.

There was a time when Israel and Transjordan, and later the Hashemite Kingdom, shared the task of halting the Eretz Yisraeli Arabs' nationalistic trends. [passage omitted] Even after conquering East Jerusalem and the West Bank, we severed the pro-Jordanian elements in the Arab population as the friendliest—or perhaps the least hostile—factor. This time, however, did not consistently guide Israel's conduct. It should have been clear since the very beginning of our settlement drive in the Jordan Rift Valley that Israel is too inconvenient a presence for the Hashemite king to agree to a permanent political settlement with it.

In fact, the Ailon plan went against the pro-Jordanian line and brought about its failure. There was never any foundation for the assumption that Husayn would stand for a few-inhabited Jordan Rift Valley which would totally block his access from Transjordan to the mountain ridge, which is densely populated by Arabs. Arranged corridors, such as proposed by the Ailon plan, did nothing to assure the king that his reign along the mountain ridge would last. He therefore moved increasingly closer to the PLO. The non-frustration of his agreement with Shimon Peres was the last nail in the coffin of the anti-Palestinian partnership between him and Israel.

In these circumstances, if Israel wants to thwart the establishment of a Palestinian entity or state, Egypt remains its only partner. Twenty months into the intifadah [uprising], it is only natural that Egypt should side with the PLO. The national Palestinian movement has proved its existence and can no longer be denied. All we can hope for is that the Egyptian regime appreciates Israel's military might and is wise enough to hold its PLO proxy in check. And it stands to reason that Husayn will want this restraint to continue.

People like Yitzhak Menda may toy with the vision of an Israel inhabited by 10 million Jews. But Likud men aware of the limited reserves of immigrants that can rationally be taken into account in the foreseeable future, should realize that Israel will continue to exist more or less within its current demographic dimensions. They must also realize that Jordan has stopped being a support in the struggle against the Palestinian movement, and that the wiser path would be to meet halfway with Egypt, which, despite its support for the PLO, wants to maintain peaceful relations with us.

There is no telling whether Rabin sees his agreement with Mubarak along the same lines, but what happened in Cairo calls for the above-mentioned interpretation.

Israel should adapt its policy to two factors, a national and a regional one. The PLO must, in one way or another, participate in the political solution, with Egypt leading the Arab world. In fact, Hosni Mubarak is following in Amr al-Sadat's footsteps. We would be well advised to walk alongside him and find in Egypt the support we lost east of the Jordan River.

Editorial on Requirements for Peace Progress

FA2109165/589 Jerusalem 91. 591.00 in Arabic
21 Sep 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Three Facts"]

[Text] Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak affirmed three fundamental facts during his interview with Israeli Television last night. These are facts that Israel's leaders must address if they want to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace that puts an end to 40 years of wars whose fires have burned all the nations of the region.

The first of these facts is that peace will remain absent from the region as long as the PLO's role remains absent, because the PLO has extensive influence over the Palestinian residents in the occupied territories. This renders it impossible for any Palestinian from the occupied territories to accept playing the role of a substitute for the PLO in any negotiations.

The second fact is the principle of exchanging land for peace. This is a fact that Israel's leaders are trying to ignore and shut their eyes to. They want both land and peace, which is impossible. For the Palestinians to grant peace to the Israelis requires in return that the Israelis give the land to these Palestinians. Rejection of this principle will distance the region from peace and will place it over a volcano liable to explode at any moment.

The third fact affirmed by the Egyptian president is that the elections cannot be held according to "Shamir's plan" unless these elections are conducted within the context of a comprehensive peace process which ultimately will allow the Palestinian people to realize their legitimate rights and see the light at the end of the tunnel. Otherwise, it is impossible for the Palestinians to accept holding these elections in the manner desired by Shamir.

In light of these three facts, the glaring difference between the Palestinian and Arab perceptions of peace and those of the Israelis becomes very clear. These perceptions still fall within the framework of the Camp David accords, which are outdated and have become inapplicable for addressing the numerous changes that have occurred in the arena.

Hence, in light of the initial Israeli responses to the Egyptian questions, it is expected that other new complications will prevent any movement of the peace process in the region. This requires the international community to exert pressure on Israel's leaders and force them to respond positively to the requirements of peace, for under no circumstances should the world leave the

issue of peace subject to Israeli perceptions that are unable to see the new realities in the region.

Egypt Urged Not To Pin Hopes on Labor Party

FA2109151/589 Jerusalem 91. 591.00 in Arabic
21 Sep 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Do Not Bet on the Labor Party"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir responded without delay to what President Mubarak called the 10 Egyptian "clarifications" by closing the door to any speculation about the Rabot-Mubarak meeting in Cairo.

As expected, the answer was no "dialogue" with a delegation in which any Palestinian from outside takes part, and no negotiations on the basis of land for peace.

Thus, to those who announced that they want to "help in implementing" his plan by these 10 points, Shamir has said that he does not need their help.

These people, in fact, were not unaware of Shamir's stance, but it seems that Egypt's rulers are still pinning their hopes on the return of the Labor Party to power after their disappointment by the results of the recent Israeli elections.

The possibility of a government crisis in Israel exists for one reason or another, but the assumption that the Labor Party will form the new government or will succeed in new parliamentary elections is farfetched. If, however, the hopes of these people are realized with a Labor Party victory, do they expect the Labor Party to accept the Palestinian initiative?

The Israeli Labor Party is very far from acknowledging the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Therefore, betting on its victory and making free concessions to it, as happened on the eve of the recent Knesset elections and what came to be known as the "London document," is a flagrant manifestation of political shortsightedness and rash renunciation of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Brelin Denies Claims of Meeting Abu-Sharif

FA2109114089 Tel Aviv HEADLINE in Hebrew
22 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Ron Kfir]

[Text] Likud ministers maintain that they have information from secret authoritative sources that Deputy Finance Minister Dr. Yosi Brelin held a clandestine meeting with PLO spokesman Bassam Abu-Sharif in a European capital over a month ago. Minister Yitzhak Moda'i confirmed that he knows from reliable sources that Brelin indeed conferred with a senior PLO personality in Europe. Brelin reacted to the report by saying it was unfounded.

Information on Berlin's meetings with PLO members also has been reported to the prime minister recently. The Likud ministers argue that in his meetings with PLO personalities, Berlin promised far-reaching concessions within the framework of political negotiations. They maintain that they will be able to glean more details on Berlin's contacts with PLO figures if a government crisis results from Mubarak's initiative.

HADASHOT has learned that in one of the meetings of the Labor ministers forum, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Berlin against engaging in divergent political moves. Berlin has recently said in a closed forum that the Alignment must preserve its place in the unity government until after the Histadrut elections, but that after that it must act according to its political line and maintain open contacts with the PLO.

PLO Plans Measures To Avert Media Attention

TA2209115200 Tel Aviv: AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
22 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Avi Benayahu]

[Text] PLO headquarters in Tunis, in conjunction with the leadership in the territories, plans to revive the notion of sending a "ship of return" with Palestinian exiles on board toward the Israeli coast. AL HAMISHMAR has learned. This is one of the ideas recently considered by the PLO leadership in a bid to bring the Palestinian uprising in the territories back to the forefront of public awareness and to recapture world media headlines.

Our military correspondent has learned that this time, the PLO intends to call the ship "the peace ship." Among other measures contemplated by the PLO in Tunis, in coordination with Palestinian public figures from the territories, are moves such as a general hunger strike in entire villages in the West Bank for a few days, as well as voluntary curfews on villages and refugee camps—all of this to focus Israeli and world media on them.

It has been learned from various sources that the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the territories and the PLO leadership in Tunis are worried by the fact that the intifadah [uprising] has been attracting less public and world media attention recently.

Basyuni Says Peace Moves Coordinated With PLO

TA2409115400 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni says Egypt is coordinating all its peace moves with the PLO. Basyuni made the statement to reporter Leta Zinder after he met Peace Now members in Tel Aviv this morning.

[Begin recording] [Basyuni] Look, we are dealing with the Israeli Government. We welcome any talks, we welcome any meetings, so that we can explain our

initiative which we consider good for the Palestinians and also good for the Israelis.

[Zinder] The ambassador was asked what Egypt would do to overcome Israeli suspicion of the PLO.

[Basyuni] Egypt will not agree to anything the PLO refuses. So we always coordinate and cooperate with the PLO. I think the real threat against Israel is not from the PLO. What do the PLO have? They have some Kalashnikovs. But the real military threat against Israel is not from the PLO. It is from the Arab countries who have missiles, ground-to-ground missiles, chemical weapons—everything, as you know. But now if we could achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinian people, Israel would immediately have peace with 22 Arab countries. [end recording]

The Peace Now delegation asked the ambassador for a Cairo meeting with President Mubarak. Ambassador Basyuni said he welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Peace Now delegation.

Soviet Officials Prepare Barter Deals to Peres

TA2209201500 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1815 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shimon Peres has been invited to visit the Soviet Union. The invitation was extended to him last night by a high-level Soviet economic delegation at the conclusion of a meeting in New York. Mr Peres was invited to visit as early as next month, but because of a Jewish holiday the date was postponed and has not yet been set. The possibility of conducting barter deals was raised in the meeting with the Soviet delegation. Israel would export know-how and equipment in the fields of aviation, agriculture, medicine, and technology to the Soviet Union in exchange for Soviet goods. Our correspondent in the United States, Yair Stern, reports.

[Begin recording] [Stern] The Soviet trade delegation arrived in the United States sponsored by multimillionaire Norman Ca'non. The Soviets visited Washington and New York where, with Ca'non's help, they tried to work out deals to boost the Soviet economy. Shimon Peres has conferred with Soviet statesmen in the past, but this is the first time in his capacity as finance minister that he has discussed business with Politburo members. The Soviet delegation included Valery Pekushev, governor of the USSR State Bank, the ministers of planning and construction in the Soviet Council of Ministers, and Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Znamenskiy [all titles as heard].

[Gennrikh Borovik, head of the Soviet delegation—in English] Trade is not only helping the peace, but it is a guarantee for peace. We think so; it gives trust to people. We think that the borders should be open, that hearts should open for constructive relations.

[Stern] The meeting lasted over 60 minutes in Peres' suite at the Park Lane Hotel in New York. The Soviets proposed doing business based on barter deals. Mr Peres offered assistance in the fields of agriculture and house breeding as well as medical equipment and high technology. In exchange the Soviets talked about exporting goods to Israel.

The finance minister sees this as the first step toward the establishment of diplomatic relations further down the road.

[Peres] I do not think that the ceremonial aspect is the most burning issue at the moment. It is much better to fill the relationship with economic, cultural, and Jewish content, and the rest will follow later.

[Stern] Shimon Peres was officially invited to visit the Soviet Union as early as October, but he has postponed for a later date. He was given the present of a cubic coin made of titanium used in the manufacture of an SS-20 missile which was destroyed as part of the INF agreement. [passage omitted]

Upon his return to Israel, the finance minister will begin discussing the practical side of a trade agreement with the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Gerasimov: East bloc Free To Establish Ties

TEL AVIV 15580 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
22 Sep 89 p. 1

["Exclusive" report from Moscow by Gidon Kautz]

[Text] "The Soviet Union will not object to additional Warsaw Pact countries following in Hungary's footsteps and establishing diplomatic relations with Israel." Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told DAVAR.

"These countries are sovereign and free to make any foreign policy decision in accordance with their interests. As for Hungary's move, we have noted the Hungarian Government's announcement that it took this step to promote a solution to the Middle East conflict. For its part, the Soviet Union continues to link restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel to substantial progress toward peace in the region."

A senior CPSU source described the Hungarian move as "a positive step toward peace in the region." Gerasimov added that meetings with the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel are "presumably" included among the 40 meetings scheduled for Foreign Minister Shevardnadze during the UN General Assembly session in New York. Gerasimov also said that Mubarak's 10-point plan will be mentioned at those meetings, just as it will be raised during Shevardnadze's meetings in Washington. Moscow's attitude toward the plan is included in the declarations made earlier this week by Soviet Ambassador to Damascus Aleksandr Zotov. Basically, the Soviet Union's attitude toward the plan is positive, but reality

must be taken into account, as should the question of how to reconcile the plan with that reality.

Regarding the attempts by Israeli ministers to come to the Soviet Union as guests of various republics, a Soviet political source said that the Soviet Union believes that at this stage, there is no room for visits by Israeli ministers to the Soviet Union.

Mideast Chemical Weapons Conference Proposed

TEL AVIV 164800 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 24 Sep 89 p. 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Israel proposed on Friday that a Middle East conference be convened to discuss a ban on chemical weapons in the area, even before a global agreement on the matter is reached.

Foreign Ministry Assistant Director-General Eytan Ben-Zur told an Australian conference on chemical weapons, attended by 67 countries, that "Israel is in an area where the use of these devastating weapons is not a matter of ancient history."

He said a world parley on the banning of chemical weapons should be convened, given that two states are known to be producing and stockpiling huge amounts of chemical weapons. Members of the Israeli delegation said Ben-Zur was referring to Syria and Libya, neither of whom are at the current conference, which is taking place in Canberra.

Foreign Ministry officials contacted last night appeared slightly surprised at the reports of Ben-Zur's specific proposal for a separate Middle East conference, adding that they would remark on it only when they received a detailed report from him.

They added, however, that the proposal conforms with general Israeli policy, which is striving to achieve a Middle East free of chemical weapons by reaching agreement among the countries in the region. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Defense Memo Said Signed With U.S.

JN 260919/2489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTHAD in Arabic
23 Sep 89 p. 1

[Text] AL-ITTHAD has learned that a secret memorandum of understanding signed by Israel's Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his U.S. counterpart Richard Cheney in Washington on 9 September gives Israel, for the first time, access to the most up-to-date weaponry and military hardware for use in strategic military research, including research on strategic missiles. Israel will also be allowed the use of [ta'zir] U.S. arms to build up its arsenal and for other purposes. High-ranking U.S. officials told AL-ITTHAD that Washington has been at pains to keep the contents of the

memorandum secret to prevent a stir in the Arab countries. In the meantime, the United States chose to refrain from commenting on the recent firing of a medium-range Israeli missile that fell in the Mediterranean, north of the Libyan city of Benghazi. AL-ITIHAD has learned that Egypt officially notified the U.S. Administration of its concern over the danger inherent in Israeli medium- and long-range missiles, which pose a threat to neighboring states.

Military Sources Deny Training Collaborators

TEL209/201189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1989 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES writes today that Israel has been training units of collaborators in villages and towns in Judea and Samaria to help it quell the intifadah [uprising]. According to the paper, in dozens of Arab villages in Judea and Samaria arms have been issued to collaborators who help the Israeli Army fight the masked men and arrest suspects. The paper quotes Israeli military sources saying that the army needs the assistance of the local inhabitants for intelligence purposes in order to arrest agitators.

Our correspondent Ben-Lee says that official military sources have denied the report, saying there are no regular units of so-called collaborators and consequently, the army has not been training such units.

Anne Pollard Vigil Held Near U.S. Consulate

TEL209/211489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Dozens of Israeli students and immigrants from the United States are holding a protest vigil opposite the U.S. Consulate in west Jerusalem, demanding the release of Anne Pollard from jail because of her poor health condition. They are holding 17 candles symbolizing 17 kg. Anne Pollard's current weight. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that the demonstrators requested an audience with the consul to present him with a letter of protest, but their request was denied.

It was reported today that Knesset Members Giora Kohen and Edna Solomon, who head the Knesset lobby for the Pollards, will visit Anne Pollard in jail in about 2 weeks.

'Amichal Appointed Foreign Ministry Spokesman

TEL209/24789 Tel Aviv YEHOI AHARONOFF in Hebrew
22 Sep 89 p. 1

[Report by political correspondent Shimon Scheffer]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has a new spokesman. Yesterday, Yosef Amichal was officially appointed spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

He replaces Dr. Alon Liel, who will be appointed head of an Israeli representation in Europe next year.

Amichal had previously served as Israel's permanent representative to UNRWA in Paris and the EC in Strasbourg. He is a graduate of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] National Defense College and has a master's degree in social studies from Haifa University.

Our political correspondent reports that Amichal had worked for several years as the assistant to Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, when he was Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Riots, Beatings, Arrests Reported in Territories

Papers Report Unrest

TEL209/160789

[Editorial Report] Two Hebrew papers on 22 September report on various riots and incidents in the territories on 21 September.

Writing on page A2 of Tel Aviv HAARETZ, Eytan Rabin and Uri Nir quote Arab sources saying that "10 people were wounded in riots in various locations throughout the Gaza Strip, most of them in the refugee camps of Khan Yunis and Rafah." The same sources say that a young man from Gaza's Dura neighborhood and a 38-year-old woman from Rafah's Shabura neighborhood were beaten "on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities." The woman was taken to al-Nasser Hospital for treatment and is reported in moderate condition. Meanwhile, tension continued in Nabulus. The bodies of two young Arabs killed about 3 weeks ago during an army raid on their house and later exhumed to have autopsies performed on them "were buried for the second time in the middle of the night." Only nine relatives of each family were allowed to attend the burial. In the Tulkarm refugee camp, a 1-year-old girl "was lightly wounded in the hand by a rubber bullet."

A report by Uriel Ben-Amy and ITIM on page 3 of Tel Aviv AL HAMISHMAR quotes Arab sources saying that "the army sealed three streets in Gaza which had been used as hiding places by stone-throwers." Working on a tip, the police searched the house of a 35-year-old resident of Gaza suspected of illegal possession of weapons and "found a Carl Gustaf submachine gun and a pistol." The man was arrested for interrogations. In Bayt Jala, the army sealed the alley "from which stones were thrown 2 days ago, seriously wounding a reservist." The report also quotes military sources saying that the army conducted "a combined operation with helicopters to apprehend six wanted men in the Tulkarm area."

General Strike Continues

TEL209/14289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] A general strike is under way today throughout the territories in response to the call issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Today's strike is to express solidarity with Arab prisoners. Our correspondent Arye Gil, reports calm has been maintained so far.

Nevertheless, a 36-year-old man was murdered by unknown assailants in Rafah, apparently on suspicion of collaborating with Israeli authorities. A 36-year-old woman was severely beaten in a different Rafah neighborhood for breaking moral traditions and corrupting values.

In the vicinity of Masabilyah, in the Jordan Rift Valley, farmers complained that Israeli citizens broke windows and set fire to a wood pile that was to be used to prepare coal.

Qerzi's Inmate Slain

TEL AVIV HADASHOT Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1680 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpt] A firebomb was thrown at the Romano House in Hebron. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Our correspondent reports that the army is searching the area.

In the Qerzi lock-up facility, an Arab detainee was murdered by other inmates. Our correspondent reports that the body of Karim 'Abd-al-Rabbuh Yusuf Karim from the Gaza area was found this morning. Police are investigating. [passage omitted]

Grenades Thrown at Patrol

TEL AVIV HADASHOT Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpt] A border policeman was slightly wounded when a stone hit him in the shoulder in the al-Shari refugee camp in Gaza. The policeman was rushed to Barzilai Hospital in Ashdod for treatment.

Our correspondent Arye Giv reports two hand grenades were thrown last night at an Israeli Army patrol in Jabalyah. One of the grenades exploded, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. [passage omitted]

Suspected Collaborators Killed

TEL AVIV HADASHOT Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Sep 89 p. 8

[Report by Mikhail Sela]

[Excerpts] Three Palestinians suspected of "collaboration" and immoral behavior were found dead over the weekend, and a woman was beaten for the same reasons. In scattered clashes between Palestinians and troops, one Border Policeman was lightly wounded and nine Palestinians were wounded by gunfire, most of them lightly. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT] in Hebrew on 24 September in a page 7 report by Mikhail Qudem, Goren Kohen, and Yair Nahon; adds that "Arab sources reported six wounded West Bank residents; two were injured 2 days ago during disturbances in the Balatah refugee camp, while two others, a 20-year-old from Nahalut and a 14-year-old from

Buga al-Sharqiyah, were beaten and hospitalized in al-Ittihad Hospital. A Tuikarm Arab and a resident of the Tuikarm refugee camp were injured by rubber bullets."

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT] in Hebrew on 24 September in a report by Eitan Nahon and Ori Nir on page 1 adds that "Arab sources reported disturbances in several locations in the Gaza Strip—on Khan Yunus, Rafah, al-Shaykh Radwan, al-Nusayrat and Jabalyah—in which 20 residents were injured. The Army Southern Command spokesman claimed he had no knowledge of any casualties."

Bayt Sahur, east of Bethlehem, was under curfew yesterday for the third day as part of a tax-collecting operation. The military authorities have cut the telephone lines in the town. THE JERUSALEM POST has learned that several prominent residents of the town were arrested. [passage omitted]

Civil Administration Reopens West Bank Schools

TEL AVIV HADASHOT Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The Civil Administration today reopened the 20 schools that had been closed in Judaea and Samaria over the past few weeks because of student unrest. This leaves only one school closed in al-Zahiriya. Our correspondent in the territories (Ido Shargi) reports that Civil Administration personnel warned the teachers and students against the recurrence of disturbances, informing them that if these happen again, their schools will be closed for extended periods of time, possibly even until the end of the year.

Economic Pressure on Gaza Strip Residents

TEL AVIV HADASHOT Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Sep 89 p. 7

[Report by Dani Tsadqani]

[Excerpts] Many Israeli decisionmakers who had hoped that economic pressure on Gaza Strip residents would weaken the power of the intifadah [uprising] have been taken by surprise, having learned that Palestinian determination to fight Israeli rule is not influenced by the economic plight the struggle is inflicting on them.

There is no doubt that because of the intifadah the standard of living of the 600,000 inhabitants of the Strip has dropped between 25 and 40 percent. There was a sharp decline in living standards as soon as the uprising began. Later there was some recovery, but things have worsened again, mostly because of the need to be outfitted with magnetic cards in order to leave for work in Israel, with all that entails.

Income from work in Israel makes up between 35 and 41 percent of the Gaza Strip's GNP, which is about 1 billion shekels annually. Anything that affects departure for work in Israel is immediately reflected in the area's economy. It is estimated that the numbers leaving for work in Israel declined by some 25 percent due to the

intifadah, with another recent drop of 5 or 10 percent. It must be added that Israel's economic recession also played a part in the decline in the number of Strip residents working in Israel. By the way, some 90 percent of those who lost their jobs are refugee camp inhabitants. [passage omitted]

An important factor in the Gaza Strip's economy is the food distributed by UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency) to the refugees—some 6,000 tons of flour weekly, 1,350 tons of sugar, 1,050 tons of meat, and 750 tons of grain. The relief agency's annual budget increased from \$48 million in 1988 to \$60 million this year due to the intifadah, is also an important employer in the region. The organization employs 4,500 local workers. The Civil Administration, which employs some 5,000 workers, mostly in education and health services, also contributes to the area's employment stability.

The industrial sector is almost undeveloped, having between 5,000 and 7,000 workers. Agriculture, especially vegetable growing, was not harmed by the uprising, and even profited due to the West Bank residents' boycott of Israeli products, which opened a good local market for Gaza produce. But the breadwinners from that sector (some 14 percent of the employers in the Strip) do not receive adequate compensation.

The worst hit sector is commerce, of course, except for trade in food produce.

The Civil Administration, which is not interested in the local population developing a "we do not have anything to lose" mood due to the economy, is showing a tendency to provide assistance. It approved, for instance, a UN initiative through the Italian Government to invest \$10 million to set up a canned citrus plant even though Israeli industry opposed the move. If the initiative is not implemented, the investors would be at fault. [passage omitted]

It is known that the Civil Administration prepared master plans for various projects in the region. They would be used, if the funds are found, as a source of employment for the inhabitants, which would ease the economic plight. No one assumes that Israel should hand out these funds from its diminishing coffers. The funds could come from taxes imposed on the residents. Prior to the intifadah there were 6,000 taxpaying households in the Gaza Strip. Now, thanks to the measures the Civil Administration has been taking—registration of vehicles, ID's, and so on—the number has reached 14,000. There is much anger over the tax authorities' methods. It is not inconceivable that as part of the efforts to normalize life in the region, the tax authorities would agree to permit some leniency. An appeals committee headed by Rafi Sade, a senior Civil Administration worker, has already been set up. It can provide tax breaks or investigate residents' complaints about unjustified tax assessments, and cancel them.

The worsening in the economic situation has led to a decline in tax revenues, which affects the Civil Administration's ability to provide services for the population. It is a problem which of course has political and security aspects. In addition to all the Gaza Strip's problems, as promoters of the intifadah and the suffering it has brought, another problem should be mentioned: Gaza workers in Israel are not being replaced by Jews, but by workers from the West Bank, which has been less hit than the Strip. Israel can make do without workers from Gaza, but the Gazan economy can manage less well without work in Israel. Nevertheless, whether they have work or not, the Gazans will apparently continue to struggle for what seems to them more important: the establishment of a Palestinian state where they see the answer to all their anguish.

Camp Residents Pressure UN To Renew Supplies

TAISHA/TAISHA Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Sep 89 p. A2

[Text] The conflict between the inhabitants of the Gaza refugee camps and UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency) management over the latter's refusal to renew the supply of food rations to the residents of the camps continues. Arab sources have reported that the strike committees and popular committees continue pressing UNRWA management to renew the distribution of food supplies, which was stopped in 1992 because of budget difficulties.

Following several incidents when stones were thrown at UNRWA cars, the organization's headquarters in Gaza decided to post guards to prevent strike committee members from entering UNRWA offices.

Two days ago, some 200 women demonstrated in front of the UNRWA offices in Gaza, demanding the renewal of food supplies to the refugee camps, whose economic condition has deteriorated since the residents stopped leaving for work in Israel.

Defense sources reported that renewing the supply of food rations to the residents of the refugee camps would cost UNRWA an annual sum of some \$25 million, which it does not have.

Sources in UNRWA reported yesterday that some 43,000 residents of the refugee camps are in difficult economic condition and are taken care of by UNRWA.

Israeli Minister on Incorporation of Territories

PT/PT/PT/PT Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Sep 89 p. A3

[Text] If Israel incorporates the occupied territories of Gaza and Cis-Jordan, it will risk its Jewish state status because the Arab population could outnumber the Jewish population. However, it is preferable to struggle to maintain a Jewish majority than to believe in the "peace process" of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This is the reasoning of attorney Ehud Olmert, a minister without portfolio involved in the minorities of Israel, who is visiting Brazil. Olmert, 44, held a news conference yesterday in Sao Paulo, at the A Hebraica Club (in southern Sao Paulo). In Israel, there are 3.6 million Jews and 785,000 Arabs. In the occupied territories there are 1.4 million Palestinians and 80,000 Jews, and the Arab population is growing at a faster rate than the Jewish population.

Olmert describes his policy as a quest for "complete equality between Arabs and Jews," an equality provided for by the laws, but one that does not exist in practice. A member of the Likud Party, a right-wing party that holds a majority in government, Olmert describes himself as more "liberal" than his cabinet peers, the Labor Party members. "While the socialists talk, the conservatives act," Olmert concluded.

Ministry Says Klein's Brithery Claims 'Unfounded'

T-1270910389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Sep 89 p.5

[Staff report]

[Text] Yair Klein, the ex-IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lieutenant colonel alleged to have trained militias of the Colombian drug cartel, has accused the security officer at the Israeli embassy in Bogota, Yoni Braun, of offering to secure Klein's escape from Colombia earlier this year by means of forged documents in exchange for a fee of over \$10,000. Israel Television reported last night. A Foreign Ministry spokesman responded that Klein's allegations, made in his police investigation, had been checked and found to be unfounded, and that Braun would remain at his post.

Shimon Concerned About Infiltration Attempts

T-1270914489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The chief of staff has voiced his concern over the involvement of Jordanian soldiers—army defectors, perhaps—in infiltration attempts into Israeli territory. According to him, there have been many infiltration attempts from Jordanian territory in the past month. What characterizes the perpetrators is that they do not

belong to a specific organization, but that they are people who want to take revenge on us.

Lieutenant General Dan Shimon emphasized that King Husayn is not pleased with the infiltration attempts either, and the Jordanian Army has taken measures to stop these activities. All the infiltration attempts were stopped at the border fence, except for the infiltration into the fields of Kibbutz Lotan. The chief of staff pointed out that Israel would maintain good neighborly relations with Jordan as long as the latter upholds its policy to thwart infiltration attempts. The chief of staff made these remarks at the Commercial Club in Tel Aviv, and they were reported by our army officers correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Likens Territories to Algeria

T-1270919179 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shimon today likened the situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to the situation in Algeria during the French occupation. Addressing the Commercial Club in Tel Aviv, the chief of staff said that in Algeria the French attained overwhelming military security but lost the battle for international public opinion. Consequently, they were ultimately forced to pull out of Algeria under the pressure of public opinion. Those who do not have staying power, the chief of staff said, will pay the political price, but we do have it.

Referring to the recent infiltrations from Jordan, the chief of staff said that such a frequency had not been foreseen. This is reported by our correspondent Moshe Neustbaum.

Shin Bet Officer Acquitted in Hamdan Death

T-12709114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] A Jerusalem magistrate's court has acquitted a General Security Services officer of charges connected with the death of 'Awad Hamdan. The officer faced charges of negligence and was freed on the benefit of the doubt. Hamdan was found dead in a cell in a Janin lockup more than 2 years ago, after 3 days of interrogation. The trial was held behind closed doors and ended a week ago, but the verdict was refused for publication only today, after reporters made persistent inquiries.

PLEC's 'Abbas Confers With Government Officials

Received by Prime Minister

JN/09/25/89 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister Zayd Bin Shaker received at his office this afternoon Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, in the presence of Marwan al-Qasbi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abbas conveyed to the prime minister Yasser 'Arafat's greetings to His Majesty King Hussein and the results of the talks 'Arafat held in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on promoting the peace process in the region. He also conveyed to him the results of the Palestinian leadership's contacts in the international arena.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member, and Umar al-Khatib, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman.

Meets Foreign Minister

JN/09/26/89 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Marwan al-Qasbi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office before noon today PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas. The PLO official told Al-Qasbi that the Palestinian leadership is appreciative and grateful for Jordan's support for Palestinian political moves.

Al-Qasbi stressed that Jordan will continue to back the PLO's efforts to secure its participation in the peace process for the attainment of legitimate Palestinian rights.

Interviewed on Egyptian Plan

JN/09/25/89 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas by correspondent Salim 'Ali [Dhiyab] in Amman on 23 September—recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] [Words indistinct] with his excellency the prime minister and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister?

[Abbas] As you must know, we coordinate with Jordan through a joint political coordination committee. There have been many Palestinian and international developments over the past few weeks necessitating a visit here to put our brothers in the picture in the interest of continued consultation and cooperation. The developments have to do with the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and relevant issues.

[Dhiyab] What of 'Arafat's repeated visits to Egypt?

[Abbas] They are within the framework of consultations and the many activities witnessed by the Egyptian capital, especially [Swedish Foreign Minister] Andersson's and Rabin's visits to Cairo. It was therefore necessary that brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasser 'Arafat] and President Hosni Mubarak should meet frequently.

[Dhiyab] Will opposition by the Israeli prime minister be able to thwart the Egyptian project?

[Abbas] Shamer and Likud still persist in rejecting virtually all the moves on which there has been a worldwide consensus to promote peace. The Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which we support, provided that Palestinians inside and outside are represented in the delegation, has in principle been rejected by the Shamer government. So it would be irrelevant and pointless to discuss any subsequent issues.

[Dhiyab] And what is the state of the American-Palestinian dialogue?

[Abbas] There is nothing new now. But there may be a new round soon. A date has yet to be set for it. But there will be a fresh round, and we hope we can take a step forward.

Cabinet Approves PLO's Accord, Debt Plan

JN/09/27/89 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24 Sep 89 p. 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Cabinet, meeting Saturday (23 September) under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shaker, approved the cooperation protocols and agreements recently signed between the governments of Jordan and South Yemen. The ministers also approved the understanding reached with the Soviet Union Aug. 21 providing for rescheduling Jordan's debts to Moscow. The Cabinet also passed an agreement between the Jordanian government and the Social Security Corporation (SSC) under which SSC will buy part of the shares of the Jordan Investment Corporation in the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and the Jordan Pharmaceutical Industries Company. The Cabinet approved a draft amendment of laws dealing with professional licenses, the Ministry of Justice administration and the Ministry of Education employees' social security.

YAR Nationals Exempted From Approvals, Fees

JN/09/27/89 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Amman—In accordance with the directives made by leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the recommendations and resolutions made by the ACC member states' interior ministers during their recent meeting in Baghdad, Salim Mawadab, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has decided to exempt Yemen Arab Republic nationals from the need for advanced approval for entering the country and from residence fees.

It is worth mentioning that nationals of Egypt and Iran were previously exempted from the same measures. This was made to bolster the good offices of the A.C.C. member states.

Royal Court Official Named; Adviser Resigns

JN 240802Z Sep 89 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing Mr. Munir Al-Durrah as secretary general of the Royal Court. Before assuming this post Al-Durrah had served in a number of other government positions, the last of which was director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, a post which is now filled by Mr. Rami Alkhatib who had served as head engineer for the corporation.

Also Saturday, the council of ministers accepted the resignation of Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam who had served as adviser at the Prime Ministry. A statement said that Abu al-Ghanam will leave his post on Oct. 1, 1989 to run as candidate for the coming parliamentary elections on Nov. 8.

U.S. Stand on Palestinian Delegation Disclosed

JN 240807Z Sep 89 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24 Sep 89 p 1

[Special to JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—The U.S. administration is sending consistent signals to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) suggesting that it does not object to PLO demands that Palestinian representatives from outside the occupied territories be included in a delegation for an initial dialogue with Israel as proposed by Egypt and that no preconditions govern the dialogue, according to informed sources.

If the U.S. signals prove to be a real shift in the American position, PLO sources expect a form of dialogue between Palestinians and Israel on steps to move the peace process forward to begin before the end of the year.

PLO officials maintain that the initiation of such a dialogue will have no bearing whatsoever on the 21-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as Washington is not referring to this issue at all in its indirect message to the PLO, the sources said. Israel insists that no dialogue, in whatever form or substance, can take place until the uprising is brought to a halt.

The sources expected the American position to be made clear to the PLO during the fifth round of talks between the PLO and U.S. in Tunis this week or the next.

According to the sources, the U.S. "signals" were conveyed through third parties involved in efforts to break the deadlock in peace efforts. In this vein, the PLO sees the current American efforts as motivated by a desire to

extract further compromises from the PLO, starting with acceptance of the Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

The PLO official, who is close to the U.S.-PLO dialogue and spoke to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity, asserted that Egyptian and European efforts to mediate the stalemate appeared to have borne fruit after the last round of the dialogue, held in Tunis last month. "But, there is yet no proof of American seriousness," he said. "Until we are directly informed through official channels, we have no guarantees," he added. One of the basic sticking points, according to the sources, was the PLO's stand that it was not enough on the American part to agree that any negotiating team could include Palestinians outside the occupied territories. The organization maintains that it reserves the right to name the delegation in public.

PLO leaders have repeatedly said that both the U.S. and Israel are trying to create a rift between the Palestinians inside the occupied territories and those in diaspora and that the Israeli plan for elections is aimed at achieving such a goal.

"The plan, which enjoys the support of the U.S., is only a means to delay the inevitable—an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue," said the official.

According to the official, the initial dialogue will not necessarily focus on elections, but on preparations for peace talks under U.N. supervision.

"Our position is clear. We are not against starting talks with Israel, but any talks should be in the framework of United Nations supervision. The first step of the dialogue could involve the U.S. and the Soviet Union, or the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," he said.

Once Israel accepts the idea of sitting down to talk to the party directly involved in the conflict, the Palestinians, other arrangements could be reached, not necessarily involving all U.N. Security Council permanent members, he added.

The Israeli position depends on how far the American administration is willing to push for this meeting. There is already a split between the Likud and Labour parties over the issue of the Palestinian delegation. Palestinian sources believe that the split will deepen to break the "national unity" coalition government. Israeli analysts say that Labour might try to form a new coalition excluding the Likud if the right-wing bloc refuses to shift from its rejectionist position.

But, on the Palestinian side, the PLO believes that "the ball is on the American court now. Any progress has to come from their side now," said a Palestinian source. "However, the PLO is taking the new U.S. signals seriously and awaiting formal confirmation of the American position."

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PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has reportedly sought European support for Egypt's two-pronged approach to Israel: a 10-point modification of the Israeli election plan and an offer to host Israeli-Palestinian talks. Israeli

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after talks with President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo last week that he had accepted the proposal for dialogue but the two leaders did not agree on the composition of the delegation.

General Awn Accepts Committee Peace Plan**'Awn's Stand 'Positive'**

NC 2209112500 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] According to information available to our political correspondent, Prime Minister General Michel Awn will notify Lahdady Ibrahim of his acceptance of the Arab peace plan this afternoon.

Our correspondent adds that Gen Awn's stand will be positive and will come as a surprise to all, because the prime minister trusts the Arab tripartite committee and will accept its plan.

KUNA Reports Acceptance

LD 2209105100 Kuwait KUNA in English
1020 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 22 (KUNA)—Head of Lebanon's military interim government General Michel Awn has accepted the Arab peace plan proposed by the higher tripartite committee to restore peace and tranquility in Lebanon, informed political sources disclosed Friday [22 September].

The sources, speaking exclusively to KUNA, said General Awn would announce the decision himself after meeting here this afternoon with special Arab envoys to Lebanon Khadaf al-Brahim.

Al-Brahim, who is here on behalf of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee to arrange a ceasefire between warring Lebanese factions in prelude for implementing a draft settlement plan of the Lebanese crisis, had travelled to Lebanon last Sunday.

The 12-point plan, suggested by the committee comprising Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, calls, among other things, for an immediate ceasefire, composition of a Lebanese security committee to monitor movement in sea harbours to ensure against entry of military supplies or equipment to parties to the conflict and a Lebanese parliament session to approve a new draft for political reforms in the country prepared by the Arab Committee.

General Awn's scheduled meeting with the Arab envoys this afternoon, the sources recalled, is the fourth and will be crowned by Awn's announcement of accepting the peace plan, they said.

The country was recently in extensive political contacts with Christian political and spiritual leaders sounding out their views on the Arab peace plan and the possibility of halting the "Liberation War" he had declared last March 14 to evict Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon and to close down harbours under control of his rival Muslim militias.

Awn's "Liberation War" has killed more than 1,000 people and wounded thousands of others besides the heavy material damage to houses and property.

Bechini Statement Aired

NC 2209112600 Damascus Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1005 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Statement by Arab Envoy Lahdady Ibrahim following his meeting with General Michel Awn at the Presidential Palace in Beirut on 22 September—recorded]

[Text] It pleases me to inform you that His Excellency General Michel Awn, following our meeting which just ended and which followed two previous meetings, [particular as heard] Discussion during these meetings dealt with what the tripartite committee submitted in the form of a plan enabling measures that the committee deems fit to be adopted. These measures are intended to bring about a halt to fighting, to lift the blockades, and to start political work as stipulated by the Casablanca conference resolutions. It pleases me to inform you that his excellency the general has approved these provisions and that we will start implementing them.

As I said in the past, during these meetings we naturally held talks, questions were put to us, and we provided as many explanations and reassurances and as much encouragement as possible so that all might cooperate to give peace a chance. All this was natural and took place in a calm, brotherly, and frank atmosphere. This was the case with his excellency the general, as well as with the other brothers in Lebanon because all the parties have questions and worries. We tried as much as possible to reassure those who needed reassurances and to provide explanations to anyone who needed them.

I said that thanks be to God, the brothers in Lebanon have agreed that we will start with God's blessing to implement this program. We will begin contacts immediately to form the security committee with the hope it will meet as soon as possible. I hope it will meet tomorrow, God willing, so that, as I said, we can stabilize the ceasefire, lift the blockade, and open the airport.

We will simultaneously begin contacts with the brotherly deputies in order to find out the contents of their consultations. The deputies are to select a venue for their meeting on 30 September. This will be the first step in the march to peace, a step which we hope will be successful. We hope that Lebanon will thus finally achieve the desired peace. We hope it will restore its unity, independence, dignity, and peace. We hope that the Lebanese who have left their homes and taken refuge either abroad or in other parts of the country will be able to return to their homes. We hope that the Israelis will withdraw, and that the Lebanese will finally be able to realize their aspirations in every possible way.

This, I think, will be enough for now. As I said, tonight will hopefully be quieter than previous nights. For as of now, we hope that the Lebanese will be able to open their businesses, go to their schools and offices, and come back home. We hope that the Lebanese will be able to rebuild the homes that were destroyed. We also hope our Arab brethren will generously help Lebanon both at this

phone and in the reconstruction phase. God willing, this will be the beginning of better times. Thank you.

'Awn Addresses Nation

NC 220617Z 23 Sep 89 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Address to the nation by General Michel 'Awn on 23 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Out of the Lebanese Government's desire to achieve peace out of trust in the higher Arab committee and its personal representative Lakkhad Ibrahim, particularly after the affirmations, guarantees, and explanations he made about certain points in the seven clauses, in response to the international community's appeal and that of all the Arab brothers and friends and the capitals where international decisions are made, in response to all who emphasized their concern about Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and the need for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from its territory, in fulfillment of the desire of the Lebanese people, who demonstrated such a degree of steadfastness and courage that the world appealed for action to establish peace in Lebanon and remove occupiers from its territory, and after extensive consultations at Wabido Palace, we declare to our people, all our people both in the free areas and in those occupied areas that on 23 September the opportunity to establish peace will begin. We affirm that peace will be established if intentions are sincere. We firmly emphasize that our decision is our own and that the liberation of our people and land is our right and our mission. While we give achieving peace a chance, we stress that peace will be achieved when Lebanon restores its sovereignty over every inch of its territory. Long live the Lebanese people, long live Lebanon.

'Awn Meets Mayr, Says Peace Given 'Chance'

NC 220618Z 23 Sep 89 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1603 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn visited Patriarch Mayr in Beirut this evening. During a 40-minute meeting, they reviewed new developments in Lebanon, particularly the Arab tripartite committee meeting. Following the meeting, Gen 'Awn was asked how he views the forthcoming stage following his approval of the seven-point plan. He said, We hope that it will be successful. We have given peace a chance and, God willing, peace will be achieved. In our address to the Lebanese we said that peace can only be complete when all Lebanon's territory and its will are liberated and when sovereignty is established.

When it was pointed out to him that the seven points did not mention Syrian withdrawal, Gen 'Awn said that this is the subject of discussion. He added, We have given a chance to peace and plan to discuss these issues. If intentions are sincere, the results will be positive. If they are not, we will preserve our freedom to make decisions at the appropriate time.

Asked if there are guarantees, Gen 'Awn said, We are the guarantors.

Ibrahim Meets Al-Huss, Al-Husayni, Comments

NC 220618Z 23 Sep 89 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1815 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Arab envoy Lakkhad Ibrahim met with Prime Minister al-Huss and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this evening. After his meeting with Speaker al-Husayni, Ibrahim declined to make any statement, only saying, Ask me the day after tomorrow.

After his meeting with al-Huss, Ibrahim said that contacts have begun on forming the security committee. He expressed hope that the security committee will meet as soon as possible and that there will be no delay in lifting the blockade and reopening the airport in order to confirm that fighting has completely stopped. When this has occurred, he said, he will be able to begin preparing for a parliamentary meeting.

After the meeting Prime Minister al-Huss expressed his pleasure at the result achieved. He expressed great hope that the clauses stipulated in the tripartite committee's statement will be achieved in a very short time. He also hoped that what has been achieved today will be an auspicious beginning that will end the war for good.

Meanwhile, security sources expect the five parties to participate in the security committee—the Army, the Lebanese Forces, Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and Brigadier General al-Khatib's army—to name their representatives in the next few hours before announcing the formation of the committee and the commencement of its work. The committee will be chaired by Lakkhad Ibrahim, of course.

Sources in the Lebanese Forces told the Voice of Lebanon this evening that they have not yet received any request to name their representative for the committee. However, the sources emphasized that they will react positively to this decision.

Preparations Made To Transfer Deputies To Jeddah

NC 220618Z 23 Sep 89 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Citing parliamentary sources in West Beirut, AFP reports that preparations began yesterday evening to ensure the transfer of the Lebanese deputies to Jeddah, the expected venue of their meeting. The agency adds that toward that end, special flights will take off from Beirut, Larnaca, and Paris.

Composition of Security Committee Announced

NC 220618Z 23 Sep 89 Damascus Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] The security committee has been formed with the following composition: Lieutenant Colonel Samir al-Qadi for the Lebanese Army Command, Lieutenant

Colonel Michel Lahoud for the al-Yazrab [Aoun] Command, Ahmad al-Bal'ban for the Amal Movement, Sa'ad al-Daw for the Progressive Socialist Party, and George Kassar for the Lebanese Forces. The committee will hold its first meeting soon.

Calm Prevails; Al-Huss Sends Envoy to Damascus

NY 750005/0000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic.
1000 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Calm prevails along the various traditional combat lines in Beirut, the Southern Suburb, and the Mountain. However, bursts of sniper fire were directed at the capital's lines after 1000 today.

In another development, Prime Minister Di Salim al-Huss dispatched Eng Muhammad Qabbani to Damascus today to brief Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam on the outcome of Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim's mission to date. Qabbani will discuss Syria's highly appreciated direct and effective support to the reconciliation and peace process in Lebanon.

'Aoun Warns of 'Occupation' in Anniversary Speech

NY 750002/0000 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic.
1015 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Speech by Lebanese Prime Minister General Michel Aoun at a ceremony to unveil the statue of liberty and mark the first anniversary of his taking office at the Presidential Palace on 23 September—recorded]

[Text] We wanted today to mark the beginning of an opportunity for peace. The goal of every kind of resistance and of every war is a real peace based on real values. To us this means Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and the freedom of its people.

Many have announced the death of the old Lebanon which was built on chaos. I assure you that we have buried chaos and all the forces and started to build a free Lebanon based on real values and social peace. However, such values cannot be established as long as the occupation continues. It is the occupation that hinders construction. We are not only at war with the occupation forces, but also with those who support the occupation. The occupation is obstructed with the notion that the dispute is among the Lebanese and that it is reconciliation among the Lebanese which can put an end to war. This means that they wish the conspiracy to continue.

Today, I would like to advise the Lebanese to be cautious in reading the headlines of television newscasts and local newspapers which are inspired by foreign powers.

The dispute has never been among Lebanese. It was a regional and international dispute disguised as a local one. Being at the head of those who want dialogue and peace today, I would like to warn the Lebanese against falling into the trap and acting as a front which hides the real conspiracy against Lebanon.

These things have become clear and are no longer hidden from any vigilant person. Let all those involved in our public affairs and those who have a role to play or a word to say build their views on these facts. The Lebanese people can no longer tolerate international forces and local chaos.

This is the final piece of advice I give the Lebanese. We are not ready to tolerate any manipulation of facts. Whoever wants to engage in a dialogue has to use clear language, call things by their real names, commit himself to nationalist objectives, and reject any schemes which may lead to the loss of this homeland. I thank you for your initiative today and entrust you with the task of defending your future against the misgivings of the past which I have buried. Do not allow that past to return. [applause]

Security Committee Lifts Blockade, Opens Airport

NY 750012/0000 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic.
1725 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] The meeting of the security committee under the chairmanship of Lakhdar Ibrahim ended a short while ago. The meeting was attended by representatives of Amal, the Progressive Socialist Party, [the two commands of] the Lebanese Army, and the Lebanese Forces.

After the meeting, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim declared that all parties have agreed to work immediately to stabilize the cease-fire. He also declared that in accordance with point three of the Arab tripartite committee statement, the security committee declares the lifting of the sea blockade and the opening of Beirut international airport. The security committee asks the relevant authorities to begin implementing this decision.

Ibrahim explained that the airport may open tomorrow.

Ibrahim Makes Statement

NY 750013/0000 (London) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic. 1145 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Statement by Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim after chairing the first meeting of the security committee at the House Waccourse in Beirut on 23 September—recorded]

[Text] First, all the parties have agreed to work immediately to stabilize the cease-fire. [Beirut Domestic Service in English at 1407 GMT on 23 September reports Ibrahim's comments as follows: "Mr Ibrahim declared that the warring factions agreed on an immediate and complete cease-fire plus the lifting of the sea blockade immediately and the reopening of the airport."]

I hope that the regrettable explosions which we heard from here have not caused any great damage and have not injured a single person. We have agreed that when the brothers leave this hall now, they will each work with his own side and I with them so that such incidents will not be repeated.

Second, in accordance with point three of the Arab tripartite committee statement, the security committee declares that the sea blockade will be immediately lifted and Beirut international airport reopened. The security committee asks the relevant authorities to begin implementing this decision immediately.

I ask the brothers to remember that I said yesterday that Lebanese national and pan-Arab commitment dictates the media help this peaceful march, which began yesterday. I am happy with the response which occurred on the radios yesterday and in the newspapers this morning. I hope and I strongly urge that the standard of this response in Lebanon and abroad should continue and rise in the coming hours and days.

The Lebanese have friends and allies, from the United States in the West to Japan in the East. We appeal to Lebanese everywhere and to their friends and supporters, wherever they are, to help us implement this plan. We ask them, especially the media, to adhere to our request and to help this committee and these brothers to achieve their objectives.

The last point which I want to tell you—and I shall not answer any questions—is that we will meet tomorrow, God willing, in the same place, and thank you very much.

[Unidentified correspondent] Any fixed hour for lifting the blockade and opening the airport?

[Ibrahim] Tonight, tonight.

[After the recorded statement, the announcer says: "As you have heard, Ibrahim noted that Beirut airport will open tonight. Later, however, he corrected himself and said that the airport will open tomorrow."]

Jublat Reopens Airport

NC 2409/0448V Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
15:00 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Walid Jublat, public works and transport minister, has issued a decision providing for air traffic to resume at Beirut international airport as of today. The airport is now fully ready to resume its activities.

Khalid Sarah, director of Beirut international airport, has issued the following statement:

On the basis of the decision issued by the civil aviation general directorate, the director of Beirut international airport calls on all officials and employees to go immediately to their workplace as of today, 23 September 1989. He then calls on the national, Arab, and international air companies to resume their flights to and from the airport.

First Plane Lands 24 Sep

NC 2409/0530V Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The first aircraft, a Trans-Mediterranean Airlines plane from Sharjah, landed in Beirut airport at 1015. The plane will leave for Frankfurt later today. Intermittent bursts of gunfire accompanied the aircraft's landing, in celebration of the resumption of air traffic at the airport.

A Middle East Airlines plane is expected to land at Beirut airport at 1145 today.

Shelling of East Beirut Areas Reported

NC 2409/2016V Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Limited skirmishes occurred on the Promo-War's al-Nahr-al-Bargha'i combat line at approximately 1500 today, and a shell was fired at al-Anshafiyah. Another shell landed in the al-Hadath area at 1745. Fifteen minutes later another shell fell in al-Kahhalah, which was targeted by a bombardment still in progress now. The 'Arayya hills are also the target of concentrated shelling.

According to a security source, two 100-mm artillery shells were fired this afternoon at a police station in al-Hadath, wounding Master Sergeant Yusef al-Hilo, Corporal Dib 'Imad, and a third person named Ghazi al-Burgash. They were taken to Sadeq Cedar Hospital and discharged later because their injuries were superficial. It was also reported that the shelling destroyed the station, whose walls collapsed completely.

Town Violations Discussed

NC 2409/2016V Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] The towns of Bayt Misi, 'Ayn Saradiah, and al-Fanar came under Syrian artillery shelling between 2045 and 2100 today.

Arab envoy Lakhkar Ibrahim has described the cease-fire violations as unnecessary problems. He declared that he has invited the security committee to meet at 1000 tomorrow.

Crossing Points Reopen; Ship Docks at Port

NC 2409/0439V Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The security committee met at the racetrack at 1000 today. The meeting was chaired by Lakhkar Ibrahim and ended at noon. The conferees discussed ways of implementing the cease-fire, the committee's work, and the formation of an observers committee.

Afterward, Ibrahim left for Beirut airport, which resumed operations today after having been closed for 197 days. He met with airport officials.

Two planes landed at the airport today. The first was a Trans-Mediterranean Airlines plane from Sharjah which landed at 1025, and the second was a Middle East Airlines plane from Jeddah which landed at 1040.

In another development, the army command announced this afternoon that all the crossing points, including Monte Verde, will be open daily from 0600 till 2100.

As for the lifting of the naval blockade, Beirut port sources expect two cargo ships to dock at the port today. One cargo ship carrying paper rolls already docked at the port this morning.

Hizballah To Avenge Saudi Execution of Shiites

NC 2209190789 (Clarendon) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Hizballah has announced that it will avenge the Saudi execution of 16 Kuwaiti Shiites and responsible for causing explosions in Mexico during the recent Hajj.

Executions 'Please' U.S.

NC 2209190789 (Clarendon) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Hizballah has condemned the execution of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims by the al-Hijaz [Saudi] rulers, who are alien to Islam. This was done to please the United States, the source of all corruption and terrorism in the world.

In a statement issued yesterday, Hizballah said: We had denounced the explosions perpetrated by the al-Hijaz rulers and their clique during the holy pilgrimage season in Saudi Arabia in order to harm Muhammad's Islam and gain the sympathy of pro-American Islam. The statement adds: We emphasize that the malevolent spirit which controls the atheist and terrorist regime's actions against fundamentalist Muslims will give impetus to avenging the blood of the innocent.

Saudi Ruling Family Threatened

NC 2409070689 (Clarendon) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] To condemn the criminal Saudi regime's execution of 16 pilgrims, Hizballah in al-Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] has issued a statement denouncing the dreadful crime which has disgraced the Al Saud clan and exposed their evil intentions.

The statement said: This murderous regime that violates sanctuaries has committed a bloody massacre in al-Ka'bah after having engineered and fabricated its dreadful explosions against the innocent guests of God. This regime has also fabricated false charges against innocent pilgrims from Kuwait and beheaded them in a treacherous and heinous manner in al-Ka'bah.

The statement accused the Al Saud of being behind the Iran-Iraq war, Lebanon's bloody war, and sedition in India and Pakistan. It also accused them of being behind

the many assassinations of the symbols of the Muslims, such as martyrs al-Sadr and al-Mahdi al-Hakim in Iraq, Bahrani, Mostafaei, and Mufidan in Iran, and Arif al-Husaini in Pakistan, as well as the kidnapping of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

The statement expressed condolences to the Islamic world and Ayatollah Khamenei's supreme jurisconsult and leader of the Islamic revolution on this great loss. It also promised the righteous martyrs that our proud people will never submit and will not keep quiet about the spiteful Saudi barbarism. It stressed that God's punishment and the mujahideen's blows will fall on the Al Saud until they are eliminated forever.

Fadlallah Claims Convicted Kuwaitis Innocent

LD 2209161689 (Lebanon Domestic Service in Persian)
1630 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Al-Ahmad Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of Lebanon's combatant clerics, said in his Friday prayer sermon at the Imam Reza Mosque in the southern sector of Beirut that [Egyptian President] Hosni Mubarak's proposed plan—which in reality is identical to Yitzhak Shamir's initiative—is ultimately aimed at annihilating the Islamic uprising in Palestine.

With regard to the recent execution of 16 Kuwaiti Muslims by the [Saudi] Arabian regime, he said: The executed or imprisoned Kuwaiti Muslims had nothing whatever to do with this year's explosions in Mexico. He reaffirmed that the explosions in Mexico were carried out by officials belonging to the Saudi regime.

Fadlallah Favors Political Dialogue, Unity

NC 2409070689 (Clarendon) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the current stage is one of political dialogue and an easing of the security situation.

He said: We are providing every favorable opportunity for dialogue and coexistence because we bear no grudges against any individuals and want to work for reunifying this country.

His eminence has asserted that it is unacceptable that one group has a monopoly on all privileges. He emphasized that every Lebanese must feel equal to all others.

Jeddah Rejects Dialogue With Michel 'Aun

NC 2409160589 (Clarendon) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblat has expressed his acceptance of the Arab solution and his agreement to take part in the dialogue to set up a democratic Arab Lebanon. However, he refuses to enter into a dialogue with Michel 'Aun and the military establishment.

This came in an address that Junblat made while visiting Beirut today to convey his condolences over the martyrs who fell in the confrontations with the al-Yarrah army.

In his speech, Junblat said: You all have noted from Arab emissaries Lakkhad Ibrahim came with an Arab authorization to stop the fighting and bring about a so-called political dialogue in preparation for reaching political reforms. In other words, we all hope that this war that has been raging for over 14 years will end, but on a sound basis. However, the Arabs have often come to Lebanon, succeeded in ending the fighting, and got us involved in the whirlpools of political solutions or dialogues. We cannot reject the Arab solution. We will accept it and take part in the dialogue for the sake of establishing a democratic Arab Lebanon and full social justice in Lebanon.

Junblat went on to say: You may ask with whom we should conduct a dialogue. Should we hold a dialogue with Michel Aoun? Never. We shall never hold a dialogue with Aoun or the military establishment. This is because the most dangerous thing in Lebanon, ever since the days of Furaih Shihab, has been and will remain the army establishment. [passage omitted]

We must be cautious because there are huge stockpiles of arms in East Beirut. We will hold a dialogue so that the Arabs do not say that we are obstructing the Arab solution. We must hold onto our arms more than ever before, and we must strengthen our defensive capabilities. We tell them: If you want a solution, we will support an honorable solution. But you must rectify the strategic imbalance in the Lebanese Army, the al-Yarrah army. I say this here so that some of the so-called nationalist leaders will not be overoptimistic and so that the issue will not turn into one of cheap booty such as a new ministry or an expanded Chamber of Deputies. We should not forget the essence, namely the struggle against the military establishment which has always protected the Maronite privileges and Arab colonialism and which, as you are aware, joined the Israeli Army during its invasion of Lebanon.

Says 'Aoun Could Be Removed'

NY 109613089 (Clandestine Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1 item) (MFI 24 Sep 89)

[Speech by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblat at the village of Sharon on 24 Sep—recorded]

[Excerpts] It is a great national occasion for us to meet here in Sharon to commemorate the martyrs of the patriotic movement who gave their lives for the sake of the great nationalist battle. [passage omitted]

We will continue the nationalist march, by peace or war. We will continue this nationalist march in a unified way, by peace or war, to face up to the challenges to come. Today they say the balance is tipped in favor of peace. This is what they say. This is what the Arabs, [Arab

emissaries], Iraqis, the Saudis, the Algerians, and others say. However, a just peace lies in a just nationalist regime, in a full and overall justice throughout Lebanon, and in a clear and strategic relationship with Syria. It is achieved when we raise the nationalist banners throughout Lebanon, and not only in Sharon. This is the just peace.

We have accepted the conditions of the truce for the time being, and we might accept a dialogue later with those among the Christians who want justice and Arabism. Michel Aoun is an individual who might go or might be liquidated by the Maronite establishment because, as they say or hear in the news, he has become a disturbing obstacle to the Maronite scheme. He could be liquidated from within. Who will remain then? The patriarch, the Kaskas [religious institution], and the army.

We will have made an important accomplishment if we streamlined the army and turned it into a patriotic Arab army. We have not waged all these wars and made these tremendous sacrifices, starting with the national Lebanese resistance in the south up to the national Lebanese resistance in the north, in the face of the second Israeli, in pursuit of extra seats in the Chamber of Deputies or in order to patch up the current political regime and establish an Arab army in Lebanon. So far the army has acted as a tool to safeguard the Maronite regime, and through it, to protect the foreign expansionism, both Israeli and non-Israeli, in Lebanon.

We are trying together to build an army out of the so-called al-Khazir command, but this is not enough.

Comprehensive patriotic efforts need to be exerted with the help of the Syrians so that we have an army we can trust. Until then, and until this army takes over security in the south and allies itself with the Arab Syrian Army, we all have to keep our weapons, increase our armaments, intensify our training, continue our operations against the Israeli occupiers, and safeguard and fortify our fronts so that we will not be taken by surprise and so that the Lebanese army of al-Yarrah and the political Maronism will not take advantage of the current truce to swoop upon us anew.

The battle is long. The winds of optimism have blown suddenly. We are optimistic about peace, a just peace, a just regime, and a patriotic Arab army. But we do not have the kind of optimism that is based on promises, news, or whispers by Lakkhad Ibrahim or others. Lakkhad Ibrahim could possess Moses' wand, but the time of miracles is over. It ended a long time ago.

Until we make sure that we, as nationalist forces, can truly share in changing the political regime, we call upon you, and on ourselves, to be alert, cautious, and more united. It is a wonderful national unity that has materialized in all positions from the south to the north. We have to increase this unity, to stand by Hizbullah, the Aouni Movement, the Communist Party, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, the Ba'ithis, the socialists, and

all honest patriots, pending the desired solution or the continuation of the confrontation.

Birri Calls for Political Change, Rejects Plan

NC 250001789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has affirmed that the war is a Lebanese war. Some approval of the recent Arab tripartite committee statement, Syria is no longer a problem for anyone. The problem is the system of privileges which has been robbing us since 1943, he said.

Minister Birri said that there must be an agreement to change the system before a new president of the republic can be elected. The deputies, he added, must go abroad to agree on a new nonsectarian system for Lebanon. He said that they must familiarize themselves with the Arab committee document but not implement it.

Minister Birri viewed the Arab committee plan as one of destruction and said, We reject it because we want to eliminate political sectarianism.

Ja'ja' Urges Overcoming Internal Disputes

NC 250015489 (Clamstone) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DI'WALI has attributed a statement to Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' which he made during a private meeting. He said, What is more important than the [Arab] plan is our agreement to address its details. Should our response be one of rejection, then all of us must reject it, but should our response be one of acceptance, this acceptance must be unanimous.

Dr Ja'ja' emphasized that the most serious thing the crisis can produce is our disagreement on how to address it, as this would lead to the disunity of the eastern area's stand. He added, The citizen who has sacrificed a great deal, given generously everything that is either precious or cheap, and tolerated 6 months of continuous shelling and destruction that went beyond what could be imagined can probably endure 6 more years of shelling by the occupiers and foreigners. However, he must certainly cannot endure 6 months of internal dispute. This is a Christian red line that must not be tampered with. Dr Ja'ja' called for rising to the point determined by history and for setting aside our selfishness because we are at a historic juncture.

Minister al-Rasi Criticizes Papal Nuncio Puente

NC 2500202789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has criticized new Papal Nuncio Pablo

Puente for presenting his credentials to Faruq Abu-al-Lama, Foreign Ministry secretary general. He disclosed that Iran has not appointed an ambassador to Lebanon in order not to arouse the sensitivities of the Christians.

Commenting on Nuncio Puente's presentation of his credentials, Minister al-Rasi said, I have just heard that the papal nuncio has presented his credentials to Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lama, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. Will he follow this by presenting his credentials to General Michel 'Aoun, will he be satisfied by this? This is what makes me today disclose a stand adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran when I was there. Then I asked Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to send the Iranian ambassador back to Lebanon. Velayati responded by saying, We are studying the matter, and we will send the ambassador at the appropriate time.

Minister al-Rasi added, Later on, an adviser to the Iranian Foreign Ministry came to me and said, with regard to my request, If we send an ambassador to Lebanon now, he will definitely present his credentials to Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, whom we recognize as the head of the Lebanese Government, but this will arouse the sensitivities of the Christians in the eastern area. We do not want this to happen. Therefore, we will postpone sending an ambassador until he will be able to present his credentials to the president of the republic and one government that represents all of Lebanon.

Minister al-Rasi added, The Iranian adviser asked me for my opinion. I told him, May God bless this stand of yours. This is a good example to be followed.

Qubalan, Haydar, Shams al-Din Address Rally

NC 2500211789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The Amal Movement held a rally for speakers in the town of Kafre Sur on al-Nabatiyah today to mark the first anniversary of the martyrdom of the three Amal Movement leaders Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Subaytah. [passage omitted]

Ja'fariite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qubalan emphasized, We are against any Christian or Muslim who cooperates with Israel. We are opposed to political Maronism, Shiite Maronism, Sunni Maronism, and Druze Maronism. We support a homeland in which the citizens and areas are equal.

Mufti Qubalan added, We support reconciliation, and we must return to each other.

Amal Movement Deputy Leader Colonel 'Akif Haydar pointed out that Syrian President Hafez al-Assad has given much to preserve the unity of this homeland. [passage omitted]

Col Haydar expressed surprise at how those in the eastern area reject the nationalist forces meeting in

Tehran and regard it as interference in Lebanese affairs. He also expressed surprise over how the Chadian patriarch comes to Lebanon to support the liberation march that is led by General "Awn.

Col Haydar went on to say that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is legitimate, and the people who called for this presence insist on its remaining until we can settle our own affairs after the reforms.

The deputy leader of the Amal Movement said that it wants a just system under which all will be equal. He indicated that such a system can be founded only on the basis of abolishing political sectarianism. This is the only solution that will enable us to attain justice.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, declared: We absolutely do not approve of any sectarian privilege for any group, beginning with ourselves. We say this while we have the security and political plan for the implementation of which the higher Arab committee is working. We reiterate our welcome of the committee's resumption of its work, and we approve of the seven-point statement.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din stressed the need for a complete cease-fire, the lifting of the blockade, the opening of the airport and crossings, and for everything that will enable the Lebanese to agree among themselves. He added: As for the political issue, we approve of the Casablanca resolutions, and the political reforms plan must conform with these resolutions.

Shaykh Sami-al-Din declared: We will lend all possible support and effort to the higher republican committee in its new march [words indistinct]. The friendly states in Western Europe and others and the two superpowers should not imagine that we are weak. It is from a position of strength that we approve of the seven-point statement.

Unknown Group, Claims Bombing French Airliner

AC 2209141689 Paris: AFP in English
1407 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Beirut, Sept 23 (AFP)—A previously unknown group calling itself the "Clandestine Chadian Resistance" claimed responsibility Saturday for the explosion that destroyed a French jetliner this week over the Sahara desert. The group said in a representative statement in French in a Western news agency in Beirut that the "struggle will continue until the total departure of colonial military troops from Africa." The undated two-line statement was written in Arabic, French.

It said "The Clandestine Chadian Resistance declares its responsibility for the operation targeting the DC-10 (UTA flight 772) on September 19 flying from N'Djamena to Paris."

All 171 passengers and crew perished when the plane crashed over eastern Niger on Tuesday. The French

Transport Ministry said Saturday that a violent explosion brought down the DC-10.

French President Francois Mitterrand said Friday that if terrorism was found to be the cause of the crash, the search for the culprits would be directed at an expanding network of Shia Muslim activists in Africa, among other possibilities.

Meanwhile, French authorities have said they were not taking seriously two telephone claims received in the aftermath of the bombing by callers saying they represented the Muslim extremist group Islamic Jihad (Holy War).

Fadlallah Says France Distorting Islam's Image

AC 2209141689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1405 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Hizballah's spiritual guide, Shaykh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah today accused the French authorities of attempting to distort Islam's image by accusing Shiite circles in Africa of blowing up a French plane.

In a speech he delivered in Beirut's Southern Suburb today, Fadlallah said that France is trying to mobilize the Israeli and American intelligence services against Shiite immigrants in Africa.

Amal, Hizballah Kidnap Each Other's Members

AC 2209107489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] According to security reports from the Southern Suburb, Hizballah and the Amal Movement are kidnapping each other's members in the al-Ghubayrah and Shaida areas.

IR Hizballah Members Held

AC 2209182459 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Tension continues in some areas of the Southern Suburb after Amal gunmen stormed houses belonging to Hizballah members this afternoon. The Amal gunmen also arrested two Hizballah members who were distributing the newspaper AL-NABI; the Hizballah members were in al-Shaykh.

After the news spread, Hizballah gunmen detained 23 Amal members in the al-Ghubayrah area. Later, it was reported that the number of Hizballah members kidnapped by Amal rose to 19, while that of Amal members kidnapped by Hizballah rose to 15.

Meanwhile, a ceremony which Amal was planning to hold in Bay al-Barajnah seminary and which was to be addressed by Mufti 'Abd al-Amer Jabalan was cancelled after Hizballah groups and support vehicles surrounded the area and dispersed the audience.

It should be recalled that the Amal Movement had earlier informed Hizballah that it does not approve of the latter's request to hold a ceremony for a Hizballah member, Muhammad Murad, in the south on Sunday.

Hizballah Condemns Kidnappings

AL 220607 1400Z (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic in Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Hizballah's information unit has issued a statement about the incidents that have taken place in the Bint Jubayl area. The unit dismissed the reports being disseminated by the East Beirut media about Hizballah's actions against the region's inhabitants.

In its statement, Hizballah noted that the Lebanese Forces are launching a systematic, provocative campaign which reveals their hostile designs against the Muslims in Bint Jubayl. Hizballah emphasized that its members are in no way involved in the actions attributed to them. The statement added that, according to confirmed reports from our kinfolk in the area, the Phalangist forces are responsible for the attacks on Muslims in the area's villages. These forces, the statement noted, are abducting citizens, opening fire on farmers, and forcibly confiscating their land and crops.

The unit condemned these practices and cautioned against any suspect plan that menaces the security of our kinfolk in Bint Jubayl and its environs.

3 Killed in Overnight Clashes in Beirut

AL 2209100300Z (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountains
in Arabic in Lebanon 0800 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] According to AFP, the security flareup triggered by the al-Yarrah army gangs overnight left 3 people dead and 16 others wounded, 3 in al-Ashrafiyah and the rest in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb.

According to the agency's toll, 1,850 have been killed and 4,777 wounded since 'Awn declared his so-called war of liberation on 14 March.

'Violent' Clashes Reported on Saa al-Gharb Line

AL 2209100400Z Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Violent clashes involving tank artillery and 21-mm machinegun fire have been raging along the Saa al-Gharb, 'Ayta, and Mtal Shamian combat lines since 2230 today.

Army positions in Baaba and residential areas in Baal came under fire at 1730 today. Heavy machinegun snipe fire from Afqa and its vicinity also was reported in residential areas in Naba and the forests of the Jubayl Mountains.

Syrians Shell Bayt Mitr, Ibrahim in Vicinity

AL 2209062100Z Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] The Bayt Mitr area was the target of treacherous artillery shelling at 0715 today. More than 100 120-mm and 130-mm artillery shells and tank shells were fired from the Syrian positions in Ra's al-Mitr. The shelling of Bayt Mitr and vicinity lasted approximately 45 minutes. Shells also fell on the al-Rabayah area.

It is noteworthy that Arab communist enemy Lutf al-Diqdumi is staying at the al-Bustan Hotel in Bayt Mitr. He arrived in East Beirut from the western sector last night.

Army Reportedly Shells Mountain Areas

AL 2209070700Z (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountains
in Arabic in Lebanon 0800 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Insisting on thwarting the positive security measures, the al-Yarrah army provoked security incidents at 0730 today. It fired artillery and machineguns at nationalist positions from Tahrir al-Wahab. Artillery shells fell in residential neighborhoods in 'Alayh, Shwat, and al-Zakharah.

Amal Member Killed in Attack on SIA in Bshal

AL 2209102200Z Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] An Amal gunman was killed and another was injured during an infiltration attempt against a South Lebanese Army (SLA) position in Bshal in the central sector.

Israeli Shell Southern Town of Erum 22 Sep

AL 220911100Z Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1110 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Zionist artillery shelled the township of Erum in the south at 1100 this morning. One citizen was killed and several others were wounded. The al-Husayni Club building received a direct hit. Several houses were also damaged. [passage omitted]

Zionist warplanes flew in large numbers over the south this morning.

Amal groups attacked enemy positions in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah this morning, wounding several. Struggler Usamah Bahr was killed and another struggler was wounded.

Gunmen Attack SLA Patrol Along Jazrin Road

AL 2209102300Z Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Sources of the fundamentalist gunmen have declared that one of these groups has detonated a mine under a South Lebanese Army patrol along the Jazrin road, destroying one tank and killing or wounding all of its occupants.

PRC's Qian Qichen, Delegation Conclude Visit

Qian Affirms PRC's Support

JN209120499 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Al-Qunaytirah—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has affirmed the support of China's Government and people for the Syrian Arab people's just struggle to regain their occupied territory. In a statement during a visit to the liberated city of al-Qunaytirah accompanied by his delegation, Qian denounced Israel's policy of aggression and expansion, especially the brutal crimes it carried out in this area and in al-Qunaytirah in particular.

The Chinese foreign minister hailed the Syrian Arab people and the al-Qunaytirah residents for their creative work to reconstruct the city and what was destroyed as a result of Israeli aggression, occupation, and expansion.

Qian and his companions toured the liberated city of al-Qunaytirah and observed the effects of Israel's brutal and sinful destruction of the city before its withdrawal from it. [passage omitted]

Round of Official Talks Held

JN209152099 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] At 1800 this evening in the Foreign Ministry, a round of official talks was held between the Syrian Arab side headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar and the Chinese delegation headed by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Assistant Foreign Minister Dya'allah al-Fattal and the director of the Media, Organizations, and Private and Economic Bureaus Department. On the Chinese side it was attended by China's Ambassador to Damascus Chang Ching, director of the Western Asia and North Africa Department, and members of the Chinese delegation.

Khaddam Receives Qian

JN209104439 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0915 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 0900 today Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The meeting was attended by Chinese Ambassador to Damascus Zhang Zhen. The talks dealt with the international and Middle East situations, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese situation, and bilateral relations.

Al-Awad, Qian Confer

JN209115439 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Awad received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his delegation today at 1130

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar and Chinese Ambassador to Damascus Zhang Zhen.

Qian conveyed a written message from PRC President Yang Shangkun to the president. The president asked the PRC minister to convey his reply, as well as his greetings and regards, to the PRC president and leadership and to the friendly Chinese people.

The talks focused on the situation in the Middle East and Asia and on bilateral issues.

The PRC minister expressed the appreciation of the PRC Government and people for Syria's policy and role in the region, as well as for the president's contribution to the world struggle against aggression and racism and for the sake of the Arabs' just cause.

The president expressed Syria's appreciation for the PRC's support for the Arab struggle against Israeli aggression and for a just peace in the region.

Delegation Departs 24 Sep

JN209074889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0815 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his delegation left Damascus this morning after a 4-day visit to our country. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qudus, heads of the Arab and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Chinese ambassador to Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Paper Urges Lebanon Accord Become 'Reality'

JN209071089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0645 GMT 24 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] On the situation in Lebanon, TISHRIN says: This is not the first time that 'Awn has been forced to agree formally on a consensus to provide better conditions in the future. We therefore insist on making the agreement into which 'Awn was forced to enter, a tangible reality. When this is done, the Lebanese security committee can be formed immediately to take on the responsibility of monitoring the ceasefire, ensuring Beirut's safety, and preparing the atmosphere for a dialogue to achieve reforms. This will allow the many forces representing our people in the eastern areas to rid themselves of the hegemony and to escape from the veto imposed on them by 'Awn, who imprisons them. It will also allow them to reaffirm their concern for the unity of Lebanon within its Arab affiliation and its eagerness for national reconciliation based on political, economic, and social reforms.

Then, the Lebanese will concentrate on fighting the Zionist enemy that does as it pleases in our heroic south, a part of which it is occupying, after some forces—whose lust for power has blinded them—provided the cover

that hides the danger of the Zionist occupation to Lebanon's national security and to pan-Arab security. This is in addition to the support from the fascist regime in Baghdad to implement a suspect role that it began during the Iraq-Iran war and which it is still playing in Lebanon. We can then say with satisfaction that the martyrs' blood was not shed in vain and that Lebanon's unity and Arabism have set the goal for which the sons of our nation have paid with their souls.

Commentary on 'Awn's Acceptance of Arab Plan

*IN 2000/154800 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
11:00 GMT 23 Sep 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Neither his destructive and devastating shelling, his maneuvering and campaigns of deception, nor his reliance on the help of the Zionist enemy has allowed 'Awn to steal the Lebanese people's hopes for redemption, salvation, political reform, and national accord. Despite using all of these tactics, 'Awn has been unable to kill the will of the entire country of Lebanon, including all of its sects and sons, to protect the homeland from the conspiracy of partition and internationalization, and also from the scheme to impose Zionist hegemony on the homeland's resources and kill the aspirations of all Lebanese. These aspirations include putting an end to the crazy war through which 'Awn, the Iraqi regime, and the Zionist enemy have tried to turn Lebanon into a chaotic morass that can be easily swallowed and digested to serve the aggressive and expansionist ambitions of the Zionists, whose danger is not confined to Lebanon. No, the danger of these ambitions also threatens the entire Arab soil and affects the crux of the basic and principal conflict between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy.

The acceptance by all Lebanese parties of the Arab committee's plan came about to confirm the impossibility of a military settlement of the conflict and also to affirm the inability of Michel 'Awn and his Zionized partition-seeking military clique to proceed with their destructive and heinous scheme against Lebanon, its people, Arabism, and unity. This acceptance also came about to assert the failure of the unilateral policies to achieve their objectives and purposes through the perpetration of the Lebanese conflict as if it were a problem involving parties other than the Lebanese, or as if it were a dispute, conflict and fight over marginal, secondary, and nonpolitical issues.

All these misleading campaigns, whose black banners have been upheld by Michel 'Awn for almost 1 year since he usurped power during the last quarter of the 1980s preceding the end of the term of former Lebanese President Amou al-Humaydi, have smacked of an irreconcilable and uncompromising country hardened toward Lebanon's Arabism and unity. This committee was also directed toward the existence and destiny of Lebanon, and also toward the will of the Lebanese people to live in

peace, security, and stability. It was directed toward the Lebanese people's desire to adhere to the constants of the national and pan-Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis, and their desire to build their homeland in a manner that would enable it to withstand shocks, complications, and schemes seeking to threaten its future and present.

The Lebanese people must endeavor to enrich these constants, create a higher sense of responsibility, bolster the national drive to remedy the political system, achieve a national reconciliation, and end all causes of the dispute and conflict among the Lebanese factions. All this must be done in a manner that would help realize the aspirations of the Lebanese people and those of their sons. Besides, this endeavor must also help realize their hopes for a free and decent living permeated by justice and equality. Moreover, an end to all temporary and selfish gains and to the hateful sectarian interests which have brought calamities and tragedies on Lebanon and its people is also envisaged as a result of this endeavor.

There is no doubt that the determination of the Lebanese people—represented by their sincere national, pan-Arab, and progressive forces affirming their full and absolute support for the principles of the political solution based on the statement issued by the tripartite Arab committee and its plan to implement the extraordinary Casablanca summit resolutions on Lebanon—has paved the way for bringing about the desired peace. It also has paved the way for all Lebanese to reach the results they desire, foremost among which are ensuring the unity and Arabism of Lebanon and enhancing all Lebanese national and pan-Arab resources and capabilities in order to force the Zionist enemy to withdraw from the Lebanese territories in recognition of the international legitimacy and in implementation of the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council. These efforts must also seek to consolidate the principles of political reform and balance the components needed for creating a national and Arab Lebanon, a Lebanon that is free of hegemony and of political, economic, and social injustice. Such efforts must also seek to prevent the imposition of the will of a small minority on the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people and to preclude the maintenance of the Zionist influence on the Lebanese people's life and resources. This Zionist influence is the direct and real cause behind the calamities and difficulties that have befallen Lebanon. Besides, this influence is also behind the crisis, conflict, infighting, and animosity that have plagued Lebanon.

Hence, the Lebanese people, with all of their factions and denominations and with the support and backing of all Arabs, are placing Lebanon on the course of redemption, the course of peace, the course of dignity, security, and future. This is the course through which the Lebanese will be able to lead a normal life and perform their role within the framework of belonging to a homeland and a nation. Thus, they will also be able to create, through their will and sacrifice, through their sweat and efforts, a homeland in which all the Lebanese will take refuge and live as citizens with equal rights and duties and also

as people sharing in a sense of citizenship cultivated and enhanced by a sincere faith in the homeland and its unity.

Press on Obstacles to Solution in Lebanon

JN240903/009 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 24 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Only Through Dialogue Can the Homeland Be Built," the newspaper *AL-BATH* says: It is high time for the fraternal Lebanese to lay down their arms and return to the language of dialogue as the only possible way to resolve all the problems which have caused the protracted crisis. The repercussions of this crisis have resulted in outside interventions which have sought to serve the interests of the enemies of both Lebanon and the entire Arab nation. Events in fraternal Lebanon throughout every phase of the crisis have proven that the language of arms is useless and that it brings only further division to plague the Lebanese, along with destruction, devastation, and mass displacement. Hence, the use of arms cannot settle the conflict in favor of any party at the expense of opposing parties.

AL-BATH adds: It is certain that the the agencies through which Lebanon—homeland and people—has gone are numerous enough to convince everybody that it is high time to work for rebuilding and reunifying the territory and people of the homeland, to reconstruct what has been destroyed by the war, and to secure the return of those expelled to their homes and places. Even more important than all this is the building of a national homeland that can play its role in its Arab environment against the Arab nation's enemies.

Under the headline "Lebanon and the Salvation March," the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* says that the path to the creation of a unified Arab Lebanon that is capable of liberating its soil from the occupiers has become clear and well-known. The paper adds: This path has been taken by all the nationalists and honorable persons who have sought to protect the sanctity of pan-Arab affiliation. Everybody knows that Syria has identified the objective of ending the bloody conflict and infighting since the beginning of the incidents and that it has sought to achieve this objective by various means. Everybody also knows that Syria has not budged from its policy despite the fact that some parties have been slow in coming to understand this Syrian pan-Arab, humanitarian, and ethical objective in Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH says: Playing its pan-Arab role in this manner, Syria aligns its activities in the Lebanese arena with its national and pan-Arab commitments and also with its role in bolstering the cohesion of all Lebanese to help them face the Zionist threat and its tools which have entrapped Lebanon, harbored evil toward it, and sought to tear it apart. However, this scheme has failed. As for those who are thinking of ways to obstruct the Syrian role, which is based on the will of the majority of the

Lebanese people, they seek neither the well-being nor the benefit of Lebanon. Those who do not want to see Beirut secure and stable seek neither security nor stability for Lebanon or the entire Arab homeland.

In the "Behind the News" column, the newspaper *TISHRIN* says: The efforts to consolidate the cease-fire will undoubtedly run into numerous obstacles erected by the isolationists. This is because the isolationists are the first who risk being harmed by a Lebanese consensus on ending the isolation, launching an accord, achieving the desired reforms, and consecrating Lebanon's unity and Arabism. Besides, maintaining the peace and stability in fraternal Lebanon is impossible without striving for a political solution.

TISHRIN adds: The times for resolving the Lebanese crisis have been well-known to everybody for a long time. Persistent Syrian efforts were about to produce this solution more than once. However, the isolationists undermined these successes every time and turned back the clock. Had good faith been present in the hearts of some parties, the crisis by now would have become a thing of the past and the Lebanese would have enjoyed security, stability, justice, and equality.

Commentary Considers Michel 'Aun's Intentions

JN240901/0259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Nation commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the Lebanese people have the right to declare their joy over the acceptance by all the Lebanese parties of the seven-point tripartite Arab committee statement. The cease-fire, the lifting of blockades, and the formation of a Lebanese security committee to inspect ships and prevent the entrance of arms to any party pave the way for reaching a political settlement, acknowledging constitutional reforms, and forming a national reconciliation government in the country. All these are righteous demands to which the Lebanese people have adhered and for which they have paid heavily with the blood of their sons. The Lebanese people confronted the futile, destructive war, which was created by a minority representing only itself to conquer the will of the people and assassinate their legitimate aspirations for security, stability, and national unity.

The question that pressingly poses itself after a full year of a vacuum in the presidency and more than 6 months of destructive war is: Did the formation of a Lebanese security committee, the prevention of the arrival of weapons of murder and destruction, and the initiation of dialogue among the Lebanese parties toward national reconciliation deserve all this immense devastation? Did they really need another 5,000 victims—killed, injured, or maimed—in order to be accepted? Was it not better to adopt from the beginning the language of dialogue and avoid violence, plotting, and destruction? To whose interest did the Lebanese pay this price? Was it really in Lebanon's national and pan-Arab interests, or was it in

the interest of a certain group of the Lebanese, which some falsely claimed to be its representatives after dominating it by coercion, terrorism, and oppression."

All false slogans and illusions meant for local and foreign consumption have collapsed. It became clear that such personal ambitions do not build a homeland or liberate a land, and that heavy shelling of the wrong place at the wrong time only reaps innocent lives and causes increasing devastation that is not confined to a certain group or area, but covers all groups and areas, and impacts on all with its black consequences.

The developments of the Lebanese crisis over the past bad years have proven that security cannot be exclusive to a certain Lebanese area and that stability cannot be exclusive to a certain Lebanese group. Such ideas have proven to be impotent, intended by some to cover the conspiracy of dividing Lebanon under various names. It must be emphasized here that the political solution in Lebanon and the halt to military escalation represent the desire of the overwhelming Lebanese majority. Although the Lebanese parties declared acceptance of this trend, supported by the tripartite Arab committee through its latest statement, the reluctance of a certain group to accept it—which took it a long week—arouses suspicion and gives reason for speculating that this group, which yielded to local, Arab, and international pressure, may place new obstacles in the way of Arab efforts, because it has not learned from the lessons of the past and has not yet understood that its dealings with the regime of murder in Baghdad—which wanted through its destructive interference in Lebanon to make the country a door for plots against Syria and the Arab nation—will be of no help and will not help them achieve their domineering illusions.

The Lebanese people are looking forward to the next steps in solving the Lebanese crisis. These steps will test the intentions of all the Lebanese parties and prove who

accepted them sincerely and who accepted them reluctantly and under pressure. All the Lebanese are looking forward to the meeting of their representatives, the members of the Lebanese Chamber of Representatives, on 30 September to speak their minds and freely discuss the items of reconciliation mentioned in the Arab tripartite committee plan. This is now possible after the guns of the war of destruction were silenced. This war was launched by some to silence the reasonable voices, kill the desire of the Lebanese for coexistence, and prevent them from reforming their system, building their unified country, and anchoring their genuine affiliation to their Arab nation.

If some want to tamper anew with the fate of Lebanon, appearing today to accept a dialogue and accord only to buy time, seize the chance to catch their breath again, go back to bullying, enjoying the support of the faouci Iraqi regime and the Zionist entity, and resume their devastating war, then these people will find themselves once again face-to-face with the entire Lebanese people. Here, it must be remembered that the entire Lebanese entity is now threatened, and that anyone, no matter how strong he is, can never be above the interest of Lebanon's people and land, because eliminating the unified independent Lebanon and dividing it into sectarian, racist mini-states mean the elimination of all Lebanese groups.

Syria and the national Lebanese forces have placed all capabilities at the disposal of the Arab tripartite committee to secure the success of its efforts and to implement the resolutions of the Casablanca summit. They reject partition and the continuation of the tragic situation. Arab Syria has proven that it does not support one group against another. Rather, it supports a unified Lebanon. Syria will not allow Lebanon's partition, and will support all sincere people in achieving Lebanon's unity and Arabism in all Lebanese areas in order to foil the conspiracy against them regardless of the cost. The unity, Arabism, and independence of Lebanon are placed above all other considerations. These aims require the sacrifices of all Lebanese to achieve and maintain them.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Reviews USSR's Motives

LDJ109170789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1500 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Entombed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) Central Committee, met Colonel General Mikhail Alekseyevich Moseyev, chief of general staff of the USSR Armed Forces and first USSR deputy defense minister, at the presidential headquarters.

Col Gen Moseyev arrived in Kabul today for a working visit of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Col Gen Mikhail Alekseyevich Moseyev carried out separate meetings today with ministers and officials of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Pakistan Charge Summoned Over Rebel Activity

LDJ409171289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy to Kabul was summoned today to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the following points were conveyed to him by the acting head of the First Political Section of the Foreign Affairs Ministry:

The responsible Pakistan authorities, in collusion with the Washington administration, are following a policy of state terrorism against all international norms and standards, especially the Geneva accords and are still encouraging, equipping and arming the anti-Afghan extremist opposition, so that they can commit crimes against the people of Afghanistan, killing innocent people and destroying homes and public property.

According to a report from authoritative sources in our country, from 16 August up to 23 September 1989, some 267 missiles have been fired at the residential areas and public establishments of Kabul city by extremist elements who are being armed due to Pakistan and United States state terrorism and dispatched to the Republic of Afghanistan. Due to these actions, 113 of our compatriots were killed and 297 were injured. Some 52 homes, 16 shops and more than 20 vehicles were either destroyed or damaged.

Also on 13 September, a Boeing 727 belonging to Ariane Afghan Airline and the aircraft belonging to the UN Civil Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan were damaged.

During 20, 22, and 23 September alone, a total of 44 missiles were fired at Kabul city. As a result, 49 persons were killed and 154 were injured.

The Republic of Afghanistan Government conveys its strong protest to Pakistani authorities about these anti-human actions, and adds that continuing such a terrorist policy by the state of Pakistan will engender dangerous

consequences, leading to a deterioration in the regional situation. In this case the responsibility will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Rebel Attacks in Khowst 'Repelled'

LDJ109175489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] An authorized armed forces source told BAKHTAR Information Agency's (BIA) military section that units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst major district are, as a whole, engaged in strengthening their defensive positions and have repelled the enemy's attacks. Warmongers using heavy weapons launched attacks on some security posts in Khowst, drawing retaliatory Armed Forces artillery and air attacks as a result of which 32 armed extremists, Pakistani militants, and Saudi Wahabis were killed, and 24 were wounded. Two rocket missile units, 3 mortars and one DSHK, belonging to them were destroyed.

The source adds that as a result of the enemy fire, four armed forces members were wounded and one was killed.

According to another report, the enemy attacked security posts in Samarkhyel, Behaul and Sorgh Rud in Nangarhar Province with heavy weapons. The Armed Forces retaliated and attacked the enemy's firing positions, inflicting shattering blows on their positions. A number of units carried out mopping up operations in some areas of Sorgh Rud, during which 72 rocket launcher rounds of the enemy were seized. The report adds that as a result of artillery and air strikes on enemy positions, 25 of them were killed, and 35 were wounded. Nine heavy weapons belonging to them were destroyed. During mopping up operations, 4 armed forces members were wounded.

According to another report, the heroic armed forces stationed in Qandahar, replying to heavy weapons fire from the enemy at a number of security posts, launched heavy weapons attacks on the extremists' firing positions as a result of which 15 enemy were killed. One ring leader, namely Mohammad Huseyn, was also among the dead.

The source adds that as a result of the mopping up operations which were carried out by armed forces units in Gihari Province, six armed extremists were killed and two were wounded. Also, none of their strongholds were destroyed.

According to another report, the armed forces units carried out mopping up operations in some parts of the Zhetak subdistrict of Badkhashan Province, as a result of which 835 rounds of rocket launchers, 952 mortar mines, 23,402 rounds of ammunition for heavy machineguns, 98 hand-grenades, 1,400 rounds for Kalashnikovs, and a large quantity of ammunition for light weapons belonging to the enemy were seized.

Armed Forces Strengthen Positions in Khosai

LD20941901/89 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] A competent source of the armed forces reported to the RIA military section that subunits of the armed forces in Khosai sub-district, with high morale and combat preparedness, have strengthened their defensive positions and have pushed back the enemy attacks that were launched today from the direction of Tanay district.

The warmongering extremists fired heavy weapons at the defensive positions and trenches of the armed forces in Jah Maydan, Lakan [words indistinct]. In retaliatory measures the subunits inflicted crushing blows on the firing positions and rocket launching areas of the armed extremists, Pakistani militiamen, and Saudi Wahabis, killing 24 and injuring another 15.

During the combat operations six personnel from the subunits were injured.

The subunits and units of the armed forces in Khosai major district carried out these duties with courage and bravery and inflicted crushing blows on the enemies.

The source added that the subunits which are discharging their duties in Nangarhar Province are mostly engaged in strengthening their positions. Some subunits have carried out mopping-up operations southeast of Sorikhod and Samarkheyl, as a result of which 75 mortar shells, 25 missiles, 24 shells for recoilless guns, and 20 rockets were seized. As a result of artillery fire on enemy positions, 20 of them were killed and 25 others were injured. One missile unit, one DSHK, one recoilless gun, and two trucks carrying weapons and ammunition for the enemy were destroyed.

The report adds that as a result of heavy weapons fire by the enemy, three personnel of the armed forces and three civilians were injured.

Heavy Rebel Losses Reported Nationwide

LD2104112780 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0500 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 20. BAKHTAR—Another stronghold of the enemy supported by Pakistan fell at the hand of the Armed Forces during a mopping up operation of the Jalalabad garrison carried out at the eastern direction of Samarkheyl and Shorakh Miri [place name as received] areas, Nangarhar Province during the past 24 hours.

Also 260 rpt 260 cannon and mortar shells, 125 rpt 125 rockets and 3 cases of hand grenades were seized during the operation, an authorized military source said.

With the backing of the 11th Pakistani Corps, the enemy attacked front lines of the Armed Forces at the directions of Samarkheyl, Behsud and Darunta districts. A civilian was killed and another wounded. Three servicemen were wounded as well. The detachments of the Armed Forces retaliated and killed 26 rpt 26 enemies

and wounded 25 others. A quantity of arms and ammunition of the enemy [was] destroyed.

The air artillery attacks of the Armed Forces on the concentration areas and strongholds of the enemy in the Khosai Grand District took lives of 52 rpt 52 enemies. Seventeen enemies wounded and 3 others captured. Three males loaded with arms and ammunition fell at the hand of the Armed Forces.

During the crushing blows of the contingents of the Armed Forces inflicted on the enemies in Qandahar and Badkhis provinces 70 rpt 70 extremists were killed and 28 others wounded.

Over 200 rpt 200 blindfolds [trenches] and fortified positions of the enemy were destroyed. Large quantities of arms and ammunition destroyed.

The state security organs of the (RA) [Republic of Afghanistan] discovered two ground-to-ground rockets today in Kabul Province placed by U.S.-Pakistani backed extremists in Kabi-e-Safi region due to be fired on Kabul city.

Military Situation in Pakia, Nangarhar Reported

LD2204182189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] An Armed Forces source has told BAKHTAR's military section that military units and subunits in Khosai major district have courageously repelled enemy attacks south and southwest of Khosai. The enemy suffered heavy losses.

During this combat operation, as a result of artillery and missile fire, 300 warmongers were killed and 22 injured. In addition, four missiles, one artillery piece, two DSHK's, two recoilless guns, three mortars, a truck loaded with weapons and ammunition, and an enemy supply depot were destroyed. The source added that as a result of shelling by the warmongering extremists, four members of the military subunits were injured. The subunits based in Khosai and other areas of Pakia Province are discharging their patriotic duty with courage, high morale, and high combat readiness.

The same source added that the enemy has fired heavy weapons on some areas of Pakia Province. In retaliation, the subunits based in this province have taken enemy positions, killing 10 enemy personnel. A commander of the extremists was among those killed.

According to another report, units and subunits based in Nangarhar Province are mostly engaged in consolidating their defensive positions from where they are able to repel enemy attacks. The warmongers fired light weapons at our forces' defensive positions, as a result of which two members of the Armed Forces were injured and five children were martyred.

In retaliation for enemy heavy weapons attacks, their positions came under crushing artillery fire and air raids.

As a result, 44 armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahabys were killed and five heavy weapons belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

Rebels Claim To Tighten Siege on Ghazni

BA/2209/14659 Hong Kong AFP in English 15:01 GMT
22 Sep-99

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 22 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels said Friday that they have tightened their siege of the southeastern city of Ghazni and its airport in the past three days.

The rebel government-run news agency MIDIA said that eight mujahidin were injured in heavy shelling by the Soviet-backed government forces as they were nearing the airport and the cantonment area of Ghazni, 140 kilometers (85 miles) south of Kabul, the sources said.

MIDIA also reported heavy fighting in the past five days for control of the native village of former communist ruler Naser Muhammad Taraki, also in Ghazni Province.

MIDIA said a reinforcement of 600 militiamen had been sent to the village, named Taraki after the former leader.

The agency did not give casualty figures.

Kabul Shellings, Rebel Siege of Ghazni Noted

BA/2209/14659 Hong Kong AFP in English 15:20 GMT
23 Sep-99

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 23 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas, apparently trying to hit a military fort in southeast Kabul, killed 40 civilians and injured 136 in rocket attacks Friday [22 September] and Saturday, an official spokesman said.

Twenty people died and 45 were injured Saturday when one of three rockets fired at the city crashed into a crowded area near the riverside money market.

Soon after the missile impacted, crowds of people could be seen at notice boards posted up outside local hospitals seeking the names of relatives among the victims.

Government Spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amari also said that the casualties from a rocket which hit the Jale Marwani area of the city on Friday had been revised from the originally announced 13 dead to 20 dead, and 91 injured.

Mr. Amari said it was believed the mujahidin were trying to hit the Bala Hissar, an ancient Kabul fortress on a small hill near Jale Marwani that is now used as barracks for government troops, including the presidential guard.

He denied that the rocket had been fired from very close range, saying that the sound that went down town residents thought was the rocket being launched, was the sound of a booster stage affixed to an Egyptian-made Saker-70 rocket.

Mr. Amari said that he had no information on casualties from the other two rockets reported to have landed on the city Saturday. However he said that on the two consecutive days the mujahidin had been unable to get closer than three kilometers (1.8 miles) from the Bala Hissar.

He also said there were "no reports" from the military on stepped up fighting round the city of Ghazni in the east. Mujahidin sources in Peshawar, Pakistan, have said that Ghazni has been under siege for the past three days.

However, he said "the armed opposition" had rocketed three other eastern cities—Khalat in Zabul Province, Khosht and Jalalabad—leaving a total of nine servicemen and three civilians injured.

In each case he said the government responded with air and artillery attacks causing heavy casualties among the mujahidin.

U.S.-Made Missile Kills 19 in Kabul

LD/899/70099 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
15:01 GMT 23 Sep-99

[Text] Kabul citizens again witnessed another blood and tragic mishap caused by the firing of U.S.-made missiles by extremists, upon the instruction of the policy of state terrorism by the United States and Pakistan, which caused many families to mourn the loss of their loved ones.

The enemies of our people's peace and tranquility, by perpetrating this terrifying crime, martyred 19 of our compatriots and injured a number of others.

A correspondent of the BIA military section, reporting from the scene, said that today around 1500 a long-range U.S.-made missile hit at the center and crowded area of Kabul city where thousands of our compatriots do their daily shopping. A number of innocent bystanders, including women, children, and the elderly, were snared in their blood. Strapped from this missile scattered and rained again the tragic, painful screams of the victims, as well as aroused the hatred of the people against this terrifying crime by the Pakistani militarists, the United States, and criminal armed extremist groups.

As a result of this mishap, heavy material losses were also inflicted on our people, three shops were destroyed, and the goods eliminated. The losses incurred reached millions of afghanis. It should be pointed out that the loss of life, as well as material losses, may exceed the above figures.

According to another report, the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan in Kabul went to Mandoni Wat, Kabul city, the place where the missile was fired by the armed extremists and inspected the scene. Photographs were taken, eyewitnesses interviewed, notes taken.

Fighting Breaks Out in Balkh, Kabul Provinces

BA/25090/24000 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
(200) (GMT) 25 Sep 89

[Text] Fighting has again broken out between the mujahedin and the Kabul regime forces in Balkh and Kabul provinces of Afghanistan. The mujahedin destroyed three Kabul security posts and a tank at Varisabad area of Balkh Province, besides capturing a large quantity of arms. The mujahedin also blew up a pipeline supplying gas and oil to the Soviet Union. The pipeline continued to spill oil for 9 hours before it was closed.

In Kabul Province, the mujahedin carried out several attacks on the (Dar Khwaab) security posts, reportedly killing or wounding about 60 men of the militia and the Khad [Afghan secret police].

Rebels Mine, Close Kabul-Jalalabad Road

BA/25090/24000 Hong Kong AFP in English (200) (GMT)
25 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 25 (AFP)—The mujahedin said Monday [25 September] they have mined the strategic road linking the Afghan capital Kabul with eastern Jalalabad closing it to all government traffic.

Masud Khalili, a spokesman for the Jamiat-e Islami resistance group, one of the seven Sunni Moslem groups based in Pakistan, said the road had been closed since Sunday.

Over 1,000 mujahedin from three groups, including the Jamiat, had taken part in the operation during which four security posts belonging to the Soviet-backed government were captured in the Tangi Abraon area some 50 kilometres (31 miles) east of Kabul, he said.

The guerrillas planted mines along the road which was now "completely under their control," Mr. Khalili said.

The road, which provides a vital supply link for Jalalabad, Afghanistan's third city, has been blocked several times by the mujahedin since the Soviet troop withdrawal in February, but government troops have always been able either to reopen it or get around the blockade by using an air bridge.

Mr. Khalili also said the strategic Salang highway linking the Soviet Union with Kabul had been closed in an operation launched on September 11 by Jamiat commander Ahmad Shah Massoud in the Charikar area some 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of the capital.

The military airfield at Bagram, east of Charikar, was also under continued mujahedin pressure, he said.

'Heavy Fighting' Breaks Out on Jalalabad Front

BA/25090/24000 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
(200) (GMT) 25 Sep 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, heavy fighting has broken out on the Jalalabad front, where, according to a report, the

mujahedin have damaged two security posts, besides seizing three tanks and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. An agency Afghan press report says, the mujahedin launched an attack on the security posts in the west of Narmarkheli, reducing two posts into mere debris. The mujahedin also attacked Kabul regime's military posts in the north of (Lardarbahen) in Jalalabad, slaying a post.

Western Emphasis Shifting to Field Commanders

BA/25090/24000 Hong Kong AFP in English (200) (GMT)
25 Sep 89

[By Rene Starna]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept. 22 (AFP)—The United States seems tired of the political infighting among Afghan resistance leaders based here and wants to add more importance to guerrilla field commanders, Western sources said Friday.

"Military efficiency" should be taking precedence over "political quarrels" between the various mujahedin factions seeking to topple the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, a U.S. diplomat said.

He confirmed that Washington was determined to see that the weapons it supplies to the resistance went straight to the guerrilla leaders inside Afghanistan instead of going via the seven mujahedin parties based in Peshawar.

The diplomat, who requested anonymity, said some military commanders controlling large areas of territory had set up regional or provincial administrative bodies beginning to be implicitly recognized by the government in exile declared after the Soviet withdrawal in February.

A European analyst said this situation had been recognized some time ago by the Kabul government of President Najibullah, but [had] been neglected by Washington, which continues to provide financial and military aid to the resistance despite the Soviet pullout and the difficulties the rebels are facing.

"The Soviets were... going that the United States would lose patience and that Congress would start to cut off the money, but it is unlikely," a second U.S. diplomat said.

He ruled out a decrease in the next fiscal year in U.S. aid, which he said was "not a tenth of the three or four billion dollars" provided by Moscow to support President Najibullah, whose record "is a pretty bloody one."

The diplomat acknowledged that some assessments by Western analysts that the Kabul government would quickly fall after the Soviets left had been too optimistic, but added "time is on the mujahedin side. Ultimately they will win."

The first diplomat noted that it had taken 10 years for the Soviets to withdraw, and no one knew how long it would take to achieve "self-determination for the Afghan people."

He stressed the need for "heightened military efficiency" for the guerrillas in parallel with a broadened base for the rebel government-in-exile.

The European analyst said the rebel government was not representative of all strata of Afghan society and had been criticized since it was formed at the prompting of the Pakistani Secret Service, the inter-services intelligence.

In particular, it had excluded Shiite Muslims, who make up 15 percent of the Afghan population.

The change in emphasis of U.S. policy on the Afghan guerrillas has already drawn a cry of alarm from radical rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of the Hezb-e Islami party, who accused Washington this week of "betraying and selling out those whom it has been calling its friends."

"The U.S. wants to weaken the Islamic parties in Afghanistan, Hezb-e Islami in particular," he said.

At the same time speculation is growing once more on a possible arrival in Pakistan of the deposed Afghan king, Zahir Shah, 74, who has lived in exile in Italy since his overthrow in 1973.

The speculation was prompted by a meeting between the ex-king and a U.S. diplomat in Rome this month, but Islamabad has denied granting the king a visa.

U.S. sources here also said that "to their knowledge" no strategy had been worked out to make the former monarch necessarily a part of the solution to the Afghan problem.

Meanwhile in Peshawar there are signs that the structures of the resistance government are strengthening, to the detriment of the individual parties.

Its ministers of information and defence, rather than faction leaders, regularly give briefings on the military situation, as fighting intensifies with the delivery of rocket-launchers and other new weapons.

One commander, Abdul Haq, has proposed setting up a mujahedin police force for captured areas of Afghanistan and the refugee camps in Pakistan inhabited by three million Afghans.

Afghan political leaders are also getting worried that several thousand employees of the parties in Peshawar have not been paid for three months. Some of them in recent weeks have been taken on by the provincial government.

Hekmatyar Says U.S. Wants To Replace USSR

BA/2494/5500s Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT
24 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad Sept 24 (AFP)—A fundamentalist Afghan guerrilla leader has claimed the United States wants to replace the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and install its own man after ousting President Najibullah.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the Islamic fundamentalist Hezb-e Islami faction, said Washington wanted to keep his faction of the seven-party Pakistan-based resistance alliance away from power in Afghanistan.

He said the United States "wants to replace the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and enshrine its own Nephew there."

"That is why the U.S. and some Western countries have initiated a witch-hunt against the Hezb," he added in a statement released here Sunday by his party.

"Without eliminating it from the scene it (the United States) could not translate its cherished dreams into reality," he said.

The mujahedin chief denounced "the propaganda campaign" and "vilification" he said had been launched against his party by "some Western media," adding that the campaign was "intensifying day by day."

He said the press campaign was intended "to prevent the establishment of an Islamic government and Islamic order" in the war-torn country.

One of the party's field commanders, Sayyed Jamal, had been accused of the July massacre of 60 mujahedin from the Jamiat-e Islami faction, a more moderate party in the Muslim resistance fighting the pro-Soviet Kabul regime.

Since then, relations between Mr. Hekmatyar and the Pakistan-based resistance have worsened to such an extent that he announced last month he would boycott meetings of the mujahedin's interim government.

The most recent speech represents the second time in a week that Mr. Hekmatyar has criticized the United States.

India

IPKF Kill 49 Sri Lankan Rebels, Destroy 9 Camps

BA/1700/5500s Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT
17 Sep 89

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 17 (AFP)—Indian troops destroyed nine rebel camps and killed 49 Tamil guerrillas in a major offensive in Sri Lanka which also left seven others dead, the Indian Army said Sunday [17 September].

The guerrillas were dead during six days of heavy fighting up to Saturday in the island's eastern Trincomalee

district belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an Indian Army statement said.

Five Indian soldiers and two members of the provincial civil voluntary force also died in the fighting, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported the statement as saying, adding that helicopters were extensively used in the fighting.

Twenty-eight LTTE guerrillas and 16 Indians were also wounded in the "major operation" which began last Monday and took place in the jungles of Kottukulam in Trincomalee's north.

The statement, released in India's southern Madras city, said there were more than 200 rebels in Kottukulam's nine LTTE camps when the Indians attacked, using an unspecified number of soldiers and helicopters.

All the camps, including two major ones, were totally destroyed and large quantities of ammunition, explosives and rations were seized by the Indians, it added.

"The IPKF (Indian Peacekeeping Force) helicopters gave extensive support to the operation," PTI said. "They provided close support to ground forces with rocket attacks, assisted in redeployment of troops and sustaining them, and evacuated casualties from the battle area."

The fighting episode was among the heaviest yet between the Indians and the LTTE, which once fought for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka using India as a sanctuary.

India has some 42,000 troops in Sri Lanka's northeast under a 1987 bilateral accord which sought to end Tamil separatism. The LTTE has repudiated the pact and has been fighting Indian troops since October 1987.

The statement said that following the killings [as received], surviving LTTE guerrillas in the camps "escaped westwards into their retreats in the Sri Lankan-controlled areas along the provincial boundary."

Indian Army sources and anti-LTTE Tamil groups have in recent weeks accused the LTTE of operating from areas controlled by the Sri Lankan security forces. The LTTE has signed a truce with Colombo.

More than 1,000 Indian soldiers and thousands of suspected guerrillas have died since the Indian troops launched operations in October 1987 to disarm the LTTE.

Gandhi Comments on Sri Lanka Situation

BA/200012294 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Sep 89

[Text] The prime minister has said the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] must be replaced by an arrangement which would ensure that the law and order situation in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka is not adversely affected. The safety and security of the Tamils are ensured. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the combined

conference of the commanders of the Army, Navy, Air Force in New Delhi yesterday. He reiterated India's desire to dislodge the PKF.

In Sri Lanka, the PKF suspended its offensive military operations from this morning. An observer group comprising the Sri Lankan Army commander and the general officer commanding the PKF will report any violation of the cease-fire, and remedial steps will be taken immediately. This decision was taken in accordance with the steps agreed upon between the governments of Sri Lanka and India toward the restoration of peace and normalcy in the Northeastern Province.

IPKF Suspend Sri Lanka Offensive, LTTE Responds

BA/200012294 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 20 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the [Indian] Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] suspended all its offensive military operations from 0600 today. An observer group comprising the Sri Lankan Army commander and the general officer commanding the PKF will report any violation of the cessation of hostilities, and remedial steps will be taken immediately. This decision was taken in accordance with the steps agreed upon between the governments of Sri Lanka and India toward the restoration of peace and normalcy in the Northeastern Province.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has also responded to the cease-fire. A statement issued by the UK branch of LTTE in London said that it has ordered the cessation of armed hostilities against the PKF. It said the supreme military command of the LTTE has asked all guerrilla formations functioning in the province to suspend military actions against the PKF personnel as a reciprocal measure to the declaration of the cease-fire by the PKF.

LTTE Charges of Cease-Fire Violations Refuted

BA/200012294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0523 GMT
22 Sep 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Sept. 22 (AFP)—India has refuted charges by Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil guerrilla group that Indian troops deployed in the island were violating an indefinite ceasefire which went into effect Wednesday.

Lieutenant General Amarjit Singh Kohli, commander of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF), was quoted as saying Friday that the allegations by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) "do not deserve a response."

He told the newspaper the HINDU: "From this it would appear that they have not carefully read the joint communiqué nor the operational conditions announced with the suspension of the offensive military operations."

"From our experience, we know that the LTTE regularly makes such false charges which do not deserve a response," Lt. Gen. Kulkarni said [passage omitted].

600 IPKF Soldiers Return From Sri Lanka

RA/20916.0000 Delhi Domestic Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Six hundred more soldiers of the Indian Peace-keeping Force [IPKF] have returned home as part of the regular demobilization process. They reached Madras today by the "M.V. Konkanshakti." These IPKF personnel had been in northeast Sri Lanka since October 1987. The soldiers were received by Brigadier N. Bari of the IPKF headquarters of the Indian Navy at Madras port this afternoon.

Over 60 Reported Killed in Sri Lanka 20-22 Sep

RA/20916.0000 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Sri Lanka say over 60 people have been killed in the island nation since Wednesday [20 September]. Reports say most of the killings took place in the town of Nawala in the western part where many bullet-ridden bodies were recovered. Among the victims was a Buddhist monk and a patient at a hospital in the outskirts of Colombo.

Iran

Rafsanjani Speaks at War Anniversary Ceremony

ED/20917.0000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1010 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] On the first day of holy defense week the splendid parade ceremonies of the exemplary units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the politico-ideological sermons of the Friday prayers were today performed beside the pure shrine of his eminency, the Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—and the pure tombs of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war. Reports received state that from the early hours of this morning, the Muslim inhabitants of Tehran, in organized batches, made their way toward the pure shrine of his eminency the Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—and the Beheshti Zahra cemetery, so that by taking part in the politico-ideological sermons of the Friday prayers, they may be witness to the parade of the honorary units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At these great ceremonies, attended by the families of martyrs, POWs, those missing-in-action, and the selfless devotees [disabled], large numbers of state and military officials, religious and clerical figures, political and military representatives of foreign countries residing in Iran, along with various strata of the people, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, pointing to the acts of bravery and self-sacrifices of the combatants of Islam during 8 years

of holy defense, emphasized the strengthening of the defense foundation of the country and the preparedness of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president, pointing to the imposition of the war by global arrogance, said: This long war and this unique, historical defense demonstrated that even if all the utopian forces of the world were to conduct an onslaught against a firm foundation such as this revolution, they will give nothing but resistance and steadfastness to this revolution. Because a revolution that has emerged on the basis of correct aspirations and lessons of the ummah and the people, and is accompanied by political and social awareness of the people, and which relies on the proper, alert, and devoted leadership, cannot be weakened or defeated by any element.

The president, in comparing the day that the war started with today, referred to the complete readiness of the Armed Forces of the Iraqi regime and the unstinting support of the masters of power of wealth of the world for that regime, and the lack of preparedness, on that day, of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to defend the country in the face of this aggression. He said: We spent 9 years under the most difficult conditions of defense, and today the whole world would admit that Iran—from the standpoint of its armed forces—is among the least vulnerable countries of the Third World, and the danger of military aggression will not come about in view of this nation and the armed forces.

In continuing his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Another lesson that this resistance has given to history is that it proved that the era of the occupation of the territory of others has passed, and the world has reached such a level of awareness and assumes that the thought of occupation of the territory of others should be thrown into the dustbin of history. However poor a nation may be, it will not allow its territory to be captured, and however strong a country may be, it will not have the strength to remain in the territory of another—and this is a lesson which the people of Iran provided for history.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: These 8 years of holy defense—in spite of the fact that it cost us dearly, and that we sacrificed the best of God's subjects along this path, but what we gained for the continuation of the revolution is very valuable—and the lessons that we have given to the history of humankind will remain in their place and will be very constructive in the future. We ourselves should put these lessons to work in a worthy way. We thought that if we are weak, we are in danger—thus, we should have the necessary preparedness and our men and women should have military training.

Pointing to the acceptance of UN Resolution 598, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In spite of the fact that more than a year has passed since this resolution was accepted, the Iraqi regime is still being stubborn. This is because we can defend our rights only through strength and

resources. The president emphasized: The martyrs of the imposed war are inviting us to be prepared and to present in the arena and to listen to the orders of the leader of the revolution. They want us to preserve the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

After the speech delivered by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the infantry and mechanized units of the Armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran paraded in front of the shrine and at the same time fighter and refueling (arrefal) helicopters, and paratrooper units began to perform their exercises.

Foreign Ministry Denies Role in Mecca Bombings

ND 210906/0000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] An interview shown on Saudi Television has falsely charged the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait with supplying incendiary material to those accused of causing explosions in Mecca. Our Foreign Ministry spokesman denied these fallacious allegations and said: It appears that the Saudi regime must have resorted to causing the explosions in holy Mecca to create an atmosphere of repression and intimidation during the Hajj pilgrimages, rituals and to prevent the demonstrations for the disavowal of pagans. With the execution of a number of oppressed Kuwaiti Muslims, it has further exposed its anti-Islamic nature.

According to the Central News Unit, the spokesman added: The program shown on Saudi television named two persons who were said to be employed at the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Kuwait and to have supplied the incendiary material to those accused of planting bombs in holy Mecca. However, those persons were never employed by the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti Government is fully aware of this. In view of the contradictory and false allegations disseminated by Riyadh television as the confessions of those accused of causing the explosions, the Islamic Republic of Iran is convinced that the recent explosions in the sanctuary of divine peace were carried out by mercenaries working for the Saudi regime, which will not refrain from committing any atrocity to suppress Muslims who believe in the true Hajj and who reject the Saudi rulers' control of the two holy mosques.

Our Foreign Ministry spokesman added: Two years ago the regime ruling over Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] dragged 400 Iranian, Palestinian, Afghan, and Moroccan pilgrims into blood and dust for the crime of disavowing the pagans; last year it sent innocent Pakistani Muslims to its torture cells, and this year it sacrificed defenceless Kuwaiti Muslims on false pretenses to please its American mentors.

If the Muslims of the world do not break their silence over these atrocities, the Islamic world will continue to witness torture and bloodshed at the hands of the Saudi rulers during the Hajj pilgrimages.

Saudi Executions of 16 Kuwaiti Muslims Condemned

Rafsanjani Sees Hand of 'Foreign Powers'

LD210917 0000 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT
21 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today expressed satisfaction with the "cordial and friendly atmosphere" existing in Iran's relations with the regional countries especially in the new stage after the war.

President Rafsanjani made the remark on a meeting with newly-appointed Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadqi before his departure to the country of his mission.

"Total stability and security in the region is impossible without mutual understanding and cooperation among the Persian Gulf states," Hoj. Rafsanjani said.

He said the Persian Gulf belongs to all regional people and the responsibility of its protection rests with the littoral states. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to the presence of foreign powers in the region, and considers sincere friendship and cooperation among the littoral states as the cornerstone of peace, stability and security."

On execution of 16 Kuwaiti and Saudi nationals by the Riyadh Government, President Rafsanjani said the Saudi Government tries in vain to sow discord among the Kuwaiti nation. "This is even against the Saudi interests, and is a suspicious plot in which hands of the foreign powers are seen."

The president expressed surprise over the Kuwaiti Government's silence vis-a-vis the crime.

Sadqi was appointed new Iranian ambassador to Kuwait after promotion of Tehran-Kuwait ties.

Khamene'i Warns Saudi Leaders

LD210916 0000 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT
21 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution today lashed out at the Saudi regime for executing a group of Muslim pilgrims for alleged involvement in two bomb explosions in Mecca during this year's Hajj pilgrimages.

Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i described the martyrdom of 16 Muslim Kuwaiti citizens as "another crime committed by the Al Saud dynasty" and warned that "the consequences of this crime will undoubtedly befall the Al Saud."

Speaking to a group of Kuwaiti theological students reading in Iran, Ayatollah Khamene'i said "the group were martyred because of their sympathy with the Islamic Revolution and not because of the fictitious charges raised against them."

He emphasized that Saudi rulers were unable to prevent Muslims from advocating and supporting the Islamic revolution and republic through "such toughness."

The Riyadh regime announced Thursday that 16 Muslim pilgrims including 14 Kuwaiti and two Saudi citizens had been beheaded for alleged planting of bombs in Mecca.

Khomeyni Scores Saudis, U.S.

LD/409/24189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1000 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] A group of Qom's religious scholars met Hujjat al-Islam al-Muslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni this morning. In the meeting, Hujjat al-Islam al-Muslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the duty of scholars and seminaries to explain political issues and maintain the unity of Islamic forces in the face of the enemies of Islam and the revolution. In connection with the heartrending incident of the crime by the House of Saud in inflicting martyrdom on the Kuwaiti Muslim pilgrims, he said: Undoubtedly, that was not the first nor the last crime by those pliant servants of the United States. The merciless killing of over 400 pilgrims in the safe House of God [Mecca], the House of Saud's unflinching assistance to Iraq throughout the imposed war and this recent crime and hundreds of other crimes will not be cleaned from the history of Islam.

Hujjat al-Islam al-Muslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said in another part of his remarks, The United States and its allies will not cease their enmity against Islam, the system [of the Islamic Republic], and the imam. The children of the revolution must in view of that fact, stand up to the enemy's plays and not leave the stage. Our Islamic system is not inclined, in any way, to compromise with the United States and its servants.

Karrubi Predicts 'Punishment' for Saudis

LD/409/15789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1000 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] [Announcer] Mr. Karrubi's remarks in today's open session of the Majlis are the subject of the hour's first news report. I draw your attention to it.

[Reporter] In today's open session of the Majlis, Mr. Mahdi Karrubi, the Majlis speaker, in his remarks, referred to Holy Defense Week and praised the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces and Iran's Hezbollah ummah. He said, Now, a year after the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iraqi regime is still refraining from the implementation of its claims; it is still being stubborn. Nevertheless, we declare that we want the revolution to be implemented and we want peace and security in the region. The world and the region's countries must know that if they do not want the region to be set ablaze with the fire of war once again, they must put pressure on Iraq so that the revolution is implemented with precision. The Iranian nation will not hesitate to undertake any act of

selflessness or sacrifice for the ideals of their imam and their revolution. They will not allow even one inch of their Islamic homeland to remain in the enemy's hands. Undoubtedly, if one day we give up hope and see that the political talks will not have any results, we will take back our occupied territories with selflessness and devotion.

The Majlis speaker continued, I ask the country's high-ranking officials to strengthen the country's defense foundation, bearing in mind that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not have any designs on any nation's territory. I ask them to give priority to reinforcing the defense foundation of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces in the 5-year plan.

Mr. Karrubi then condemned the House of Saud for inflicting martyrdom on 16 Kuwaiti Muslims and said, Those executions and baseless accusations by the House of Saud regime take place in circumstances in which, in the Hajj ceremonies of 1987, it massacred demonstrators who were disavowing infidels and who were being led by selfless devotees [war disabled], mothers and [word indistinct] and then claimed that the demonstrators had the intention of taking over the Holy Mosque and taking part of the Kaaba [to Qom].

Now, two, after extensive tortures in closed chambers, they claim that those people brought explosive material and placed bombs. Is that plausible? In closing his remarks, the Majlis speaker noted that the fact of the matter was enmity and battles between pure Muhammadan Islam and American Islam in the world of Islam, and that the House of Saud is warring scores with revolutionary forces, and those supporting the Islamic revolution will not remain silent in the face of that crime and, from that burning blood, faithful people will be created and the House of Saud must expect punishment and vengeance for its crime.

Majlis Deputies Score Saudis, U.S., UK

LD/409/167889 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT
24 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA.—At least 150 deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) here today called on the Iranian Foreign Ministry to unmask the Saudi regime to the world people.

Their appeal was a reaction to the execution of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims in Mecca on charges of bomb planting near the Grand Mosque during the annual Hajj ceremonies earlier in the summer.

The Iranian parliamentarians said in their letter to the Foreign Ministry that Mecca has now been transformed into a U.S. stand for plotting against world Muslims, and that the U.S. and Britain hate to see the city grow into a center for propagating the teachings of Islam.

Their letter read in part: "The heart-rending martyrdom of 16 brave children of the Muslim ummah and Kuwaiti pilgrims by the criminals of the Saudi regime has astounded all. The capital city of Hajar has now turned

into a center for plotting against Islam. King Fahd and other mercenaries in Hijaz are trying hard to suppress Islamic movements. Out of mere enmity with the Islamic revolution the Saudi regime has brought itself to simply watch the plundering of the natural resources of Saudi Arabia by foreigners, and has even gone so far as to have financed and engineered state coups in Muslim states the most recent of them being the state coup in Sudan for ousting Nurey al-Mahdi.

"The United States and Britain," said the letter elsewhere, "are now the principal usurpers of the holy shrines in Mecca and Medina and would not see it that this fountainhead of Islam (Mecca and Medina) turn out as a center for rising against imperialism and Zionism."

The letter continued: "The shaky government of the Al-Saud family is now plagued by the nightmare of the uprising of Muslims in Hijaz, but it must remember that such instances of martyrdom will simply feed the firmly-planted tree of the Islamic revolution in Hijaz. We warn Muslims to draw a line between that regime and other Muslim governments in the region and recognize it as the most corrupt seed in the region."

Meanwhile, Majlis Speaker Hujjat-Oslam Kurrub-salayi criticized the Saudi regime for falsely accusing the group of 16 Kuwaitis of having had bombs and explosives in their possession and for saying that Iran had been behind the bomb planting.

He said the incident is a symptom of the polarity between unadulterated Islam of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and the American brand of Islam.

Islamic Revolution Group Comments

11/13/89/14889 Tehran IRNA in English 11/20 GMT
21 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—Organization of the Islamic Revolution in Arab Peninsula Saturday condemned execution of 16 Kuwaiti Muslims by the Saudi regime and appealed to all peace-seeking forces to halt Saudi infringement of human rights.

Referring to the last year execution of four members of the organization on unfounded charges of being involved in sabotage activities, the statement said that the Saudi regime during this year's Hajj rituals arrested a number of Kuwaiti Muslims and forced them to make confessions on what they had never done.

The statement strongly warned about consequences of such measures and said that this latest crime would "further speed up retaliatory moves by Muslims and strengthen their determination to eradicate this unholy root from the most sacred land on earth."

Supporters of Saudi Ties Criticized

11/13/89/15889 Tehran IRNA in English 08/1 GMT
24 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—The Persian daily *ABRAR* Sunday predicted "Tehran-Riyadh ties will be restrained as long as the ruling Saudi Government stays in power."

The daily's editorial referred to the Thursday execution of 16 Kuwaiti Hajj pilgrims in Mecca under the pretext of being involved in two explosions in Mecca during Hajj rituals last July.

The Saudi Television has broadcast an interview with the Kuwaiti victims who made forced confessions that they had received explosives from the Islamic Republic Embassy in Kuwait.

The paper, in a criticizing tone, said "the incident served as a proper answer to those who advocated taking the first step in establishing relations with the Riyadh regime."

Head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee Seyyed Raza Khorasani was recently campaigning for improvement of ties with Saudi Arabia, however, his efforts were opposed by the Majlis and media describing his statements on the issue as "personal views."

Such remarks can no longer be considered personal views, said the editorial stating that they were made in order to "justify an ominous trend favoring establishment of ties with enemies of the nation and of the Islamic revolution."

It said such remarks are signs of "political ignorance."

"Nature of the Saudi regime as a U.S. client state is known to all and the Iranian nation is well aware of it," it said. However, it is surprising that some have not yet become aware of this simple fact—Saudi enmity with the Islamic revolution of Iran.

"The Saudi TV show is so unfounded and void of validity that there is no need to reject it at all," said the paper.

"The incident, at least, should give a hint to those who boldly want to initiate the first step in establishing ties with the murderers of more than 400 Hajj pilgrims," the editorial concluded.

Reestablishment of Ties With Saudi Arabia Viewed

AC/11/13/89/15889 Tehran I T T E L I A T in Persian
11 Sep 89 p. 2

[Commentary "Is For a Penny, Is For a Pound"]

[Text] Following the publication of the view or proposal by the chairman of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee that in establishing relations with Saudi Arabia we should act in a manly way and take the first step, a

number of Majlis deputies stated their views to the Majlis speaker on this yesterday. The Majlis speaker, for his part, described the view or proposal as a personal opinion and said: In conclusion, I should say that of course views expressed by some of our friends in debates are personal opinions, and have no connection with the Majlis or even the committee. Naturally, each deputy has the right to express his views, and there is no need for discussions on such things. These are personal opinions and have nothing to do either with the Majlis or the committee.

Unfortunately, in a world of telecommunications, news agencies, radios, and press agencies, the view of the chairman of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee, who was also the permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations for several years and who was so knowingly described by the former U.N. representative to the United Nations as a television star, are not portrayed as personal views.

There is no doubt that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia cannot remain severed forever. The link between our revolution, system, and nation with Mecca and Medina is not one that can be ignored. But the question is: In establishing relations with a government which massacred pilgrims in the sanctity of God's sacred house and decided to sever relations with our country, should we be the ones to act in a manly manner and take the first step? Should we ignore the bloodstained hands and wipe the crocodile tears from the face of such a government, at a time when its stony eyes are not even shedding crocodile tears, in should Saudi Arabia take the first step? The view propounded by the chairman of the Majlis committee is something like the adage: In for a penny, in for a pound. What does it matter if a nation that has been through so much and has given so many martyrs suffers some more?

Velayati Departs For New York, UNGA Meeting

UD280044087: Tehran (IRNA in English) 28.09 GMT
27 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left here for New York Saturday morning to take part in the ongoing annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

"We believe that destiny of the Third World countries could not be a scapegoat for clashes and tensions among big powers," he stressed in an interview before departure.

Velayati added, "We welcome de-escalation of tension among these powers, but the outcome must be in the interest of all world nations."

He made it clear that it was not in the interest of the Third World nations to be caught in the tension and stressed that all should play an equally active role in determining the world destiny.

Velayati said that in the light of latest international developments and those in the Middle East region, the ongoing U.N. session will be of special characteristics.

The Iranian delegation is to meet with foreign ministers of other countries during its stay in New York.

The General Assembly session will last till the end of November.

Velayati Meets Jibrell, Hizballah Leaders

UD2800412589: Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
10.00 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Abu Hisham, members of the Hizballah leadership, Shaykh Sa'ad Shabbar, leader of the Islamic Tawhid Movement, Ahmad Jibrell, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), and Abu Musa [Sa'ad Musa Muragha], leader of the Revolutionary Victory [Fath-e Enghelabi] met with Foreign Minister Velayati last night.

According to the Central News Unit, the issues of Lebanon and Palestine were discussed during the meeting. The need to increase resistance against the Zionist regime and its supporters—for the sake of backing the heroic uprising of the Palestine nation and strengthening the struggle of Islamic and national Lebanese forces to eliminate the unfair tribal system in that country—were stressed during the meeting. The leaders of the Islamic and national groups of Lebanon and Palestine reviewed recent developments in Lebanon's arena and rejected any solution which ignores the rights of the Muslims and the struggling forces in Lebanon.

The leaders of the Islamic and national groups of Lebanon and Palestine also strongly condemned the action of the Saudi regime in executing the Khomeini Muslims.

During this meeting, Mr Velayati reportedly said: We shall never neglect the issues of Lebanon and Palestine, these issues will remain a strategic part of our foreign policy. We think that the prime gain of the Lebanese people during the past several years is owed to this struggle and effort.

The foreign minister added: The honor of the Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine will depend on continuation of the jihad as well as future struggle, and in such a struggle against the Zionist regime and its supporters and mercenaries, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its support.

Rafsanjani Meets Lebanese Amal Official

UD280040658: Tehran Television Service in Persian
10.00 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received a delegation from the Lebanese Amal Movement, led by Ayoub Hamayyid, chairman of the movement's executive committee.

During the meeting the Amal delegation congratulated Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his appointment as president of Iran and expressed the hope that, while relying on the teachings of His Eminence Imam Khomeini and under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic Republic of Iran will overcome all its problems and raise the banner of the glory and greatness of Islam and the Muslims.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked them and stressed Iran's support for the oppressed people of Lebanon. He added: "We will definitely not abandon you against the Zionists and other enemies who have besieged you."

Daily Questions: Arab League Plan for Lebanon

[Editorial: *Teheran IRNA in English* 0553 GMT 22 Sep 89]

[Text] Teheran, Sept. 22. IRNA—Return of peace to Lebanon seems improbable without establishment of political trust; there, said the English daily, *TEHRAN TIMES* in its editorial Monday.

The *TEHRAN TIMES* added that armed clashes could not be ended if "specific and clear discussions" were not held on the structure of political future of Lebanon.

Referring to the acceptance of the "point plan" of the Arab League by belligerent parties in Beirut, *TEHRAN TIMES* said that the plan's dealings with "political reform" in the "political structure of Lebanon only in generalities" was its "biggest shortcoming."

The daily also expressed doubt about the duration of the cease-fire reasoning that Michel Aoun accepted the plan under political and military pressure.

Turning to the contacts between Vatican and Lebanese Maronites, the daily said this indicated "Vatican's intention to increase its interference in Lebanon's political affairs, and in fact the Vatican wants to announce its all-out political support for the Maronites."

The paper warned that a new round of fighting with wider dimensions would be witnessed in Beirut if "the Maronites refuse to accept Lebanon's political reality on the basis of the democracy of majority."

TEHRAN TIMES called on Syria to "make sincere efforts to bring back peace to Lebanon and to establish political justice there."

The Syrians should admit that there is a difference between fighting against Zionism and imperialism and occupying a neighbouring country," concluded the daily. [quotation marks as received]

Implementation of Cease-Fire in Lebanon Viewed

[Editorial: *Teheran Domestic Service in Persian* 1102 GMT 24 Sep 89]

[Unattributed political commentary: "Implementation of the Security and Cease-Fire Plan in Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] Thousands of Beirut's citizens whom, as a result of 6 months of intense fighting, had taken refuge in other sections of Lebanon, headed back toward their city, where life is gradually resuming normal conditions. [passage omitted]

Last Saturday, the tripartite Arab committee composed of Moroccan, Algerian, and Saudi Arabians announced their plan on the return of stability to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

In the tripartite committee plan, it has been proposed that the naval blockade be removed, and, in order to reach progress, no government should export weapons to Lebanon. Hitherto, the Iraqi regime has been one of the exporters of weapons to Michel Aoun. At last, however, on 10 September, representatives from the Lebanese parliament will gather at a hitherto unknown venue to endorse a new national conciliatory accord, hence paving the way for the election of a president. [passage omitted]

It is not inconceivable that Michel Aoun, who in spite of his own wishes has accepted the tripartite committee's plan, may place stumbling blocks in the way of its progress, which may lead to a resumption of military clashes aimed at gaining political concessions. In any case, political observers in Lebanon and the region hold the opinion that Michel Aoun's capability and chances for a resumption of clashes are very small, especially since he has lost the seeming support of the United States. Also, there are rumors in East Beirut of political disaffection by the other right-wing Christians.

In the past 6 months, Michel Aoun has embarked on a series of various clashes to force the Syrian Government to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, but it has now accepted a plan in which no mention is made of the withdrawal of Syrian troops. In addition, Michel Aoun had objected to the formation of a Lebanese security committee, and had called for the Syrian Government's presence as one of the protagonists, but he failed to attain this wish too. Therefore, an amalgamation of the present conditions does not give much leeway to Michel Aoun, and the United States cannot support him any further. At the moment, a return to tranquility and an end to the clashes is the most important blessing. But it is still unclear whether the political leaders will reach agreement on the new national conciliation plan, and until then, new factors can enter the current equations, hence creating new conditions through their interference.

The Zionist regime has hitherto, by its occupation of a section of southern Lebanon and inconspicuous assistance to Michel Aoun, been a silent witness to the past year's chaos in that country. It is not inconceivable that if future developments endanger the interests of that regime, it may, through its interference, block the way to the attainment of national reconciliation in Lebanon.

SOUTH ASIA

65

Advantage Seen in Maronite Disunity in Lebanon
NY 100-107000 Lebanese Television Service in Persian
04/01 GMT 22 Sep 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The new developments in Lebanon over the past few weeks have clearly manifested the full and overt intervention by foreign powers in the crisis in that country. The most outstanding of these incidents was the closure of the American Embassy in East Beirut.

The departure of the American diplomats and the closure of the embassy came after repeated anti-American demonstrations and the surrounding of the embassy by the Christians. The anti-American acts that started under Awn's direction were in a way an effort to express the dissatisfaction of some Maronites with U.N. policy in the region. Meanwhile, France's strong political and military support for Awn and the condemnation of the secessionist movements of Samir Jajja's forces by the United States and of France in the Lebanese crisis did not conform. This was at a time when the coup attempt by the pro-Jajja forces against the Awn leadership was uncovered and neutralized.

Therefore, the emergence of the vast differences between the Maronite forces can, from one aspect, be considered to be a reflection of the existence of a difference of views between the United States and France over the Lebanese crisis.

Apparently now the Americans do not consider Awn's presence at the head of the Christian forces as necessary any longer, and following the developments in Lebanon and in the region during the past months, as well as in their efforts to release these hostages, they are willing to talk and divide the rule up to the borders of the Zionist regime's security line. But until attaining areas that it can rely upon, America will continue to resort to various means in order to preserve the current situation, or in order to help Christian elements that are close to Israel and America, such as Jajja, to gain power. [passage omitted]

Thus, the current form the crisis has adopted and the strong conflicts in the Maronite camp can be a strong point for the national and Islamic forces. In other words, this is the best opportunity for the progressive forces to defend their rights and inflict the most effective blows, though resistance has been created, and this can only be achieved through alertness, unity, and [unattributed] acts.

Commentary: Urges U.N. Pressure on Iraq
NY 100-107000 Lebanese Television Service in Persian
04/01 GMT 22 Sep 80

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpt] In the Name of God. We are embarking on the celebration of the anniversary of a period of holy defense at a time when a little over a year has elapsed since the acceptance of Resolution 598 and the implementation of a cease-fire. However, parts of Islamic Iran are still under occupation by Iraqi forces.

The basis of Resolution 598 was to resolve the issue of the imposed war. Thus the United Nations' responsibility in this regard was doubted. Therefore, any delay in the implementation of Resolution 598 may be attributed to stalling on the part of the Iraqis. However, the U.N. Security Council cannot exonerate itself by attributing the delay to Iraq since it is up to its permanent members, in particular on whom responsibility for the implementation of Resolution 598 rests, to exert the necessary pressure on Iraq. The Iraqi regime will be forced to bow down to the wishes of the Security Council. If, however, the latter contents itself with issuing directives, then, in view of the attitude it has shown, Iraq will obviously not pay any heed to them.

Despite this state of affairs, the Islamic Republic of Iran has cooperated sincerely in the implementation of Resolution 598. It has every right to be apprehensive about the continued occupation of its territory and should not neglect the strengthening of its defense structure.

Today, the nature of international relations is such that the credibility of governments is gauged by the extent of their power. Even the United Nations, which should be an authority that views the weak and strong equally, surely favors the weak ones with even a glance because of the immense influence of the oppressive powers. Our experiences during the period of our holy defense brought this truth home to us, because whenever the enemy perceived a weak image of us and attempted to ignore our rights, it also endeavored to extract concessions. [passage omitted]

What has constantly perturbed the Islamic Republic of Iran since its acceptance of Resolution 598 is the lack of seriousness on the part of the United Nations concerning its implementation. Today, the Security Council should, by exerting pressure on the Iraqi regime, show that it is completely determined to discharge its legal responsibility in this regard. Even though this is the responsibility of the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran can never be indifferent to the violation of its rights or the occupation of its territory. In view of this, the readiness of the Armed Forces and the vigilance of the people become imperative needs. Iraq has proved that it has no intention of adhering to international accords and resolutions and, if the Security Council does not exert the necessary pressure on Iraq, the Iranian nation will be leader of the revolutionary system of the Islamic Republic stated in his message on the occasion of our victorious resistance that revolutionary Iran will not tolerate the presence of the unbelly despotism, aggression on its territory for a prolonged period of time and that in

such as even the losses incurred by the aggressor in the region will definitely be very heavy, as in the past.

Therefore, with the levers at its disposal, the United Nations should motivate Iraq into obedience and should vindicate the Islamic Republic of Iran's legitimate rights.

Naval Forces Plan Maneuvers in Persian Gulf

LD/40916/889 *Tehran IRNA in English* 17/9 GMT
24 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24 IRNA—Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hossein Malekzadegan announced Sunday that the naval forces will stage maneuvers code-named "Paykan-1" in the central and northern Persian Gulf waters late this (Iranian) month (ending Oct. 22).

Speaking to IRNA, Admiral Malekzadegan noted that the maneuvers are launched following leader Ayatollah Khamene'i's call for the vigilance of the armed forces.

"The objective of the maneuvers," the Navy commander added, "is to beef up combat power and display military capability of the Navy in northern Persian Gulf region."

A major part of the maneuvers, Malekzadegan said, would be allocated to mock operation of missile carriers against imaginary vessels of the enemy.

Missile carriers, minesweeping helicopters, hovercrafts, Navy fighter planes and marines will take part in "Paykan-1" maneuvers which would be conducted two months prior to another major maneuvers of the naval forces in the Persian Gulf waters.

Khamene'i Appoints Three Military Commanders

LD/40917/890 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
17/9 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued separate decrees today, appointing Messrs Rahim Safavi, Mostafa Izadi, and Abbas Mohtaj as deputy commanders of the [Islamic Revolution Guards] corps, commander of the Corps Ground Forces, and acting commander of the Corps Ground Forces, respectively.

The decrees are as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful Brother Rahim Safavi: On the proposal of the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and considering your outstanding record on the battlefields and in the capacity of commander at various levels, I appoint you as deputy commander of the corps. A description of your duties will be conveyed to you by the corps commander. I pray to God almighty for your success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 24 Sep 89

The decree of the leader of the Islamic revolution to Mr. Izadi is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful Brother Mostafa Izadi: On the proposal of the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and considering your long and outstanding record on the battlefields, I appoint you as commander of the Ground Forces of the Guards Corps, so that, in accordance with your assigned duties, you will improve the preparedness and strength of the various units of that force to the required level and prepare them to defend the revolution and carry out their military duties on the frontiers of the Islamic Republic, by maintaining suitable revolutionary discipline. I pray to God almighty for your success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 24 Sep 89

Decree of the leader of the Islamic revolution to Mr. Mohtaj is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful Brother Abbas Mohtaj: On the proposal of the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and considering your long record and successful efforts in various military posts, I appoint you as acting commander of the guards corps ground forces, so that, in accordance with your assigned duties, you will assist in raising the rising efficiency of that revolutionary institute. I pray to God almighty for your success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 24 Sep 89

Appoints 2 More Military Commanders

LD/40918/891 *Tehran Television Service in Persian*
17/9 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The great leader issued two separate decrees appointing Brigadier General Ali Shabbazi and Mohammad Bager Zolqadr as chiefs of the Joint Staff and the Guards Corps Central Headquarters, respectively.

The decrees are as follows:

Brig Gen. Ali Shabbazi: Considering your practical military experience and the admirable faith you have demonstrated during the past decade, I appoint you as chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff. Your main mission is to rebuild and organize the Joint Staff, convey command decisions to the Armed Forces and supervise their implementation, coordinate the Armed Forces' administrative and operational departments, and fortify the country's defensive strength. This should be carried out with the cooperation of all commanders. I pray to God almighty for your success.

The decree issued to the Guards Corps Central Headquarters chief is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful Brother Mohammad Bager Zolqadr: On the proposal of the Guards Corps commander and considering your

revolutionary military background and practical experience in the Guards Corps, and the faith and commitment you have demonstrated in various posts. I appoint you as chief of the corps' central headquarters. The headquarters' main duty is to prepare plans for the implementation of command decisions and orders and maintain appropriate discipline in the corps' general structure, which should be carried out with the help of the corps commander and the cooperation of all commanders and officials responsible for the various parts of the corps. I pray to God almighty for your success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Date] 22 September 89

New Managing Director of IRNA Appointed

LIJ1099/10289 Tehran IRNA in English 12:46 GMT
19 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19. IRNA—Hossein Nasiri was appointed managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) today. His appointment was announced here by the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Hosayn-ol-Islam Mohammad Khatami, during a farewell ceremony also attended by outgoing managing director Dr Kamal Kharrazi.

Nasiri is replacing Dr Kamal Kharrazi, who was appointed Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations on Thursday.

Nasiri was acting managing director of IRNA before being promoted. He joined IRNA in 1981 as managing editor. He also served as director of the international department.

Nasiri, 35, holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering.

Born to a religious family, he went to the United States in 1973 after graduating from high school. While studying in the states he was an active member of the Central Council of the Islamic Association of the Iranian Students in the U.S. and Canada. He returned home in 1978 just before the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

He is married and has two children.

22 Sep Friday Prayers Sermons Reported

First Sermon by Musavi-Ardabili

LIJ2599/70699 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
11:01 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Friday prayers first sermon by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 22 Sep—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I would like to devote my sermon to a very significant and vital issue that in my opinion is a very sensitive matter, as well as a basis for all our other issues. In a nutshell, the issue can be described as our Islamic unity within the domestic front. I would

like to take this opportunity to elaborate on this issue, giving the necessary warning to my brothers and sisters, this grand assembly of the armed forces on the day of Ashura [40th day of Imam Husayn's martyrdom], and in the presence of this huge gathering. [passage omitted]

You are all aware that the postwar period is a very difficult and arduous one for any nation, and we are the same as all other peoples around the world. We have difficulties. We have economic problems, all of which we are more or less aware of. We have political problems, especially due to our policy of neither East nor West, as a result of which it is clear that the world is unlikely to leave us alone. [passage omitted]

We have problems caused by the war. Our war is not yet over. We have not yet reached a period of peace. We are currently living in an awkward situation, rather like purgatory, in a period of cease-fire. Our war problems still prevail. We have social and management problems, such as social corruption, the shortfalls left to us from the Tughat era [reference to Pahlavi regime].

We have problems of incorporating Islamic doctrines within the country's organizations, foundations, legislation, and systems. All these problems should be resolved with the people's participation. A general problem can be solved only by the public.

In every country there are the people—the ordinary people—and the officials. Thanks be to God, we have officials in our country who work in accordance with the Constitution and with Islamic tenets—from the top ranks to the lower ones. From the honorable rank of leadership to the honorable rank of the presidency, together with other officials they are, praise be to God, all present and working. With the utmost confidence and trust and with all their heart, our people, our nation, have accepted the officials and voted for them. Not only do they not regret voting for them, but they are also proud to such an extent that even if the Assembly of Experts were to vote today, or if the people were going to cast their vote at the ballot boxes today, they would not vote for anyone other than those they have already voted for. Their votes, the election, and their thoughts were all correct, and they are pleased with their voting. [passage omitted] In my opinion, this is how the decisive majority of Iranian people think. I am not saying that this is everyone's opinion. There may be 5, 10, or 100 people who may think otherwise; therefore I only say the decisive majority.

However, brothers and sisters, beware! Despite all the respect we have for the officials, we do not consider them to be infallible. According to our religious belief we have 14 officials—the 12 imams, a single prophet, and Her Holiness Zehra [the prophet's daughter]. [passage omitted] Our officials are competent and just. Competency and justice give immunity from sin but not immunity from error. A just man does not commit sin, but he is liable to error. We should take care not to become like

a *dinh* which is better than the tooth itself, and thus bypass Islamic and religious principles.

However, not all people think the same way. If, for example, one day an official commits an error inadvertently, who is to redress his error? In the past it was the colonisers: states, the bloodsuckers, the East and the West who used to come and tell them what to do. Is there anyone more pious than the people themselves who voted for them, and who are proud of their votes, that they should come and admonition them, make speeches, and cast votes?

Now, what I deduce from this is that I feel that an insidious disease is gradually spreading in our society. For example, if an official makes a remark and another contradicts him, he is immediately labeled a counterrevolutionary, a counter-Velayate Faqih (ruler of the consultation), and an opponent of the system and the official. This is not right! It is the person who has leveled such accusations who is the anti-Islamic one. It is possible that [the critic may be] a devout revolutionary, an admirer of the revolution, a war-wounded person, a person who is devoted to the Koran, to Islam, and to the revolution and the system. Even the officials themselves may on occasion have useful opinions. It is his opinion, and we have no right to say he is opposed to the revolution, the Velayate Faqih, the system, the official, and so on. We should maintain our unity in the domestic front.

Brothers and sisters, masters! We cannot deprive the people of their rights in the name of Islam. We cannot propagate un-Islamic issues among the people in the name of Islam. I have the right to listen to hundreds of speeches by the official which I have accepted and to disagree with any of them, saying that my opinion is different from his. I would much prefer it this way than being called a counterrevolutionary when I disagree with one of the speeches. I become disillusioned.

In our society we should not commit perversity against the system and the officials under the pretext of serving the system and the officials. In our society we should give people the right to express their opinions even if they are contrary to that of the officials, just as they had the right to cast their votes at the ballot-box. A person should feel safe, knowing that his contrary opinion will not cause him any trouble.

This is not only a religious matter and legal matter, but it is also proper—and in the interest of the system. Now, as a brother, as a father, as a citizen, as a person devoted to the revolution as the servant of the revolution, I advise the brothers and sisters. I counsel them that they should not act against the interests of the system on the pretense that they would like to do a greater service to the system. God forbid that they should do anything that would go against the interests of the system. May they not do this? Let all the people be present on the scene, let all the people benefit from their lawful rights, let everyone be satisfied and content and thank God that

under the shadow of the Islamic Revolution we have reached freedom of thought, freedom of opinion and freedom of the pen. I shall now draw your attention to two issues and then pass on.

1. What I say does not apply to those who are biased, those who are sick, those who harbor ill-intentions, those who would like to turn things upside-down, those who would like to take advantage of the sacred name of freedom, those who belong to monofactions, those who deep-down are counterrevolutionaries, those who worship foreigners and who do not believe in anything. It is not these people that I am advising that we should... [changes thought] No system in the world would allow a better ideological enemy to disrupt with devilish deeds a system that has been built with the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs. What I am saying is that those who are not like this, those who are keen and who are devoted—we should not do something rash and [word indistinct]. This was one of the points to be explained.

Perhaps someone may say: Has this happened in Iran? Don't they "allow anyone to speak"? Do they "persecute people"? Has the voice of those who are devoted to the revolution got stuck in their throats? What is this matter that is being raised in the Friday prayers? No, I say! But, it can be seen here and there—I shall say this in order to prevent a social sickness and as one who warns. Here and there it might be inferred and insinuated and might be said, these things may be said but they are to be ignored. Thus, if there is nothing to prevent these things there is the fear—God forbid, God forbid—that one day it may turn into a social sickness. Take heed right now. Do not allow these thoughts to grow, to have the opportunity to grow in the Islamic society. And this is a religious duty and an Islamic duty.

The second issue: Our esteemed officials are indebted to us—they have a certain duty toward us and we, too, have a duty toward them. They have the right to expect us to vote and to be at their disposal, with all our strength and power, to act in the way they have shown us, to cooperate with them to the extent that each is able to when they try to solve a particular problem. We should not adopt the attitude that, well, let him who is responsible go and solve the problem. What has it got to do with me? Let him solve it, I am not an official and I am not responsible. Everyone of us is responsible!

This is one aspect of it. And we, too, have rights where officials are concerned. They must also look after us. May it not happen that any group, faction [datch], or community—wrongly or rightly, knowingly or unknowingly—enrage that they are being pushed aside. This would be a tragedy. From the start of the revolution, in spite of the presence of his eminence the imam, if we had not had that unity and solidarity, it is not clear how the revolution would have developed. Now we have no imam, but his place should be filled by us with fraternity and unity. May it not happen that any group—for instance, the community of students, the community of workers, of craftsmen, peasants and so on—sense that

they are being gradually pushed aside, that they are slowly reaching the point where they become complacent. First they become complacent and then they gradually become disgruntled and then God forbid, God forbid, they turn into counterrevolutionaries. And then we would have to say: 'They are challengers [nales-kesh]! Anyone who has the power to oppose does so! This will not do! This is not Islamic! This is not correct!'

I deemed it necessary to draw your attention to these two issues and to take advantage of this opportunity. This situation has not yet arisen in our society in this era of reconstruction, God willing, but I considered it my duty to warn you about this so that all those who are counted as the people can consider marching, praying, going to the fronts, to war, taking up arms, fighting, working in the economy, or on any front where we are working we should all take into our hands whatever weapons we have and jump in. I thought it necessary to tell you about these two points. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon by Murtaza-Andehi

LEZ/STU/Tulu Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Friday prayers second sermon by Ayatollah Murtaza-Andehi in Tehran on 22 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses and introductory remarks omitted] In the second sermon I wish to make a point in connection with the points I made 3 or 4 weeks ago about the religious seminaries. [passage omitted] Regarding the religious seminaries, I wish to make a few points I have not heard other people make.

It is a source of pleasure, and it is one of the blessings of the revolution, that the situation has improved greatly in the religious seminaries. After the revolution a migration started from among the educated classes toward the religious seminaries. At the moment, in Qom seminary we have a large number of seminarians who have received their secondary school diplomas in mathematics, natural sciences, or experimental sciences, or who even have qualifications above the secondary school diplomas, or have a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree. [passage omitted]

These religious seminaries should be strengthened. What I mean by strengthening the religious seminaries is that if you go back 15 or 20 years, you will see that this revolution that you liked so much, a revolution for which you sacrificed so many people—see who were the standard bearers of this revolution. Who were the people who were the standard bearers of the revolution in the universities, in workers' homes, in the bazaar, in the houses of the people, on the farms, and who were the people who acted as middlemen between his eminence the imam and the people in those dangerous days?

In those days we had three groups of clerics: one group consisted of those who were affiliated to the Sassanid period. We also had a large number of silent people, despairing people, indifferent people. They were not against having an Islamic government, but they were not hopeful about it either. However, those who were carrying the banner of the revolution were few, they were very few. You could count the number in their central group on one hand. They and their pupils, their friends, and their well-wishers made up a group. Those were the people who went to prison, were tortured, were beaten, and were martyred, and it was they who brought the revolution to fruition. They were the ones who were given hard and heavy duties in the Revolutionary Council by the imam. They were the people who were the agents of the imam among the people when the imam was in Iraq or in Paris. They were the ones. Of course, since 1978, gradually when God's beauty became clear, when the forces of Islam and the standard-bearers of Islam were strengthened, then gradually they dragged behind them the monks, the other seminarians, the Friday imams, and the people and brought them forward. They were the ones who carried the heavy burden of the revolution. They were the ones who were martyred or who died. They are not among us now. [Koranic passage omitted]

The religious seminaries should be so strengthened that they can again give the Islamic system such characters. [passage omitted] It is true that on the day when martyr Beheshti was martyred we poured into the streets and and Iran is full of Beheshtis, Iran is full of Beheshtis. However, it was proved that there was not even one more like Beheshti in Iran. Now, so we do not insult others, I should say that while Iran is not full of Beheshtis, there may be one or two or three like him.

In order that this current of thought, this behavior and this group are not totally eliminated, it is necessary for this group to be strengthened. God willing, in the future we will have so many people like those beloved ones, like those masters, that if the enemy once martyred a few of them, their places will not remain vacant. The reason I insist, why I stress this point and follow up this thought that the religious seminaries should be strengthened is that our system will receive its intellectual sustenance from the religious seminaries, so that God forbid there will never be a vacuum.

We vow to the imam as we are next to his pure shrine. We have come here today to make a vow to him, to talk to him. [passage omitted] O imam we vow to you that we will never forget that, as you said, the East and the West are our enemies and will never be our friends. [crowd chants]

O imam, we vow to you that we will never rest until the country has reached self-sufficiency and true economic, cultural, and ideological independence. [crowd chants]

O imam, we vow to you that we will always look on world-devouring America and her lackeys as traitors and

enemies of mankind and will never stretch the hand of friendship toward them. [crowd chants]

O imam, we vow to you that we will do our best to safeguard our independence, individual freedom, the people's rights, and in the light against contraband, and establishing Islam and the Koran. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Yazdi's 15 Sep Prayer Sermon Outlined

LD15091118N Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
10:00 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Today the Muslim, monotheistic people of our country observed the Islamic rite of Friday prayers as on previous Fridays. In Tehran, too, the Hizbullah ummah and the lovers of the household of purity and immaculacy, with their presence in the University of Tehran and adjoining streets, performed religious-political Friday prayers under the imamate of Ayatollah Yazdi.

The head of the judiciary stressed in his Friday prayer sermons the need to observe purity in all aspects of life. He referred to the remarks of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, about the importance of law enforcement by the judiciary. He said, All those who work in the judicial system of the country and who hold certain responsibilities, regardless of their position, should respect the law. No one is allowed to do something against the law and the rule of law through prudence and personal viewpoints. [as heard]

Addressing the prosecutors throughout the country, Ayatollah Yazdi said, Laws have been devised in order to ensure speed, justice, order and the safeguarding of rights. One should understand the meaning of the terms properly and then issue a decree.

Referring to the program, "The Voice of Justice," which is broadcast 2 days a week on the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Yazdi thanked the management of that organization and the producers of that program, and called for greater cooperation between the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the press with the judiciary.

In another part of his speech, referring to the release of Mr. Fulaadi from British jail, Mr. Yazdi described any connection between his release and Roger Cooper as baseless. He said, According to the judicial principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cooper is a condemned person, and today he is serving the period of his conviction [va akhbar ham doweran-e mahkumiyat-e ahad ra naghosaranad].

The head of the judiciary also thanked the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly for their crushing response to the letter of a number of U.S. congressmen.

He said, The wisdom and vigilance of the Majlis deputies forced them to collect copies of these letters. However, even one copy is sufficient for international organizations and judicial centers. The U.S. ruling circles have demonstrated that after 10 years they still hold grudges against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this letter is another black spot on America's file.

At the end of his speech, Ayatollah Yazdi warned those who do not observe Islamic codes and asked the officials to prevent inappropriate actions and immodest dressing in accordance with law. He also called on the monitor and the officials of the Interior Ministry to pay greater attention to the issue of the obstruction of public thoroughfares.

Visiting PRC Official Urges Mining Cooperation

LD340915540N Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
10:00 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The Chinese deputy minister of geology and mineral resources met Mr. Javad Mansouri, the Foreign Ministry undersecretary for Asia and Oceania affairs, yesterday.

According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting our country's Foreign Ministry undersecretary conveyed the willingness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand mutual cooperation in mining and the exchange of relevant experts. He proposed that China should set up an exclusive exhibition in Tehran to present her technical and specialist facilities.

According to this report, the Chinese deputy minister of geology and mineral resources described the cooperation between the two countries in mining as fruitful. He expressed his country's willingness to expand mutual cooperation in mining and the exchange of experts. He described his visits and meetings in Iran as extremely fruitful and declared that a memorandum of understanding on mining cooperation would be signed between the two countries at the end of his trip.

* Commentary Responds to Sirjani Article

40400105 Tehran ETTELAAT in Persian 21 Aug 89
pg 2, 13

[Article by A.A. Abbasszadeh, "Answer to 'The Future, Important Decisions, and Finally That Which We Must Know'"]

[Text] Monday 30 Mordad [21 August] on page two of the newspaper ETTELAAT an article by Mr. Sa'udi Sirjani was printed entitled "Point." The publication of this article raised problems on the minds of some of the newspaper's readers.

This article is one of the articles that reached ETTELAAT after the printing of the "Point" under discussion. With the exception of two deleted lines containing insults directed at the writer under discussion, the article is printed verbatim below for your information along

with a brief commentary from the newspaper ETTELA'AT. It is hoped that, with the blessings of God, the newspaper ETTELA'AT will be able, by printing various articles and different points of view, to play a small role in creating a sound intellectual atmosphere in society.

It is necessary to note that in the same regard we have received a letter from a brother named 'Ali Raza, but because its contents are similar to the present article, we will print only this article.

To the editor of the newspaper ETTELA'AT

Greetings to the guardians of the shrine of the exalted values of the splendid Islamic revolution. I am writing in answer to an article entitled "Poet" printed in the S/BN 1668 [2] August 1989 issue of that newspaper, and ask that this be printed verbatim on the basis of the Press Law, Peace, A.A. 'Abbaszadeh.

I seek refuge in God from accursed Satan, in the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

When the hypocrites came to thee, they said, "We bear witness that thou art indeed the apostle of God." Yea, God knoweth that thou art indeed his apostle, and God beareth witness that the hypocrites are indeed liars. They have made their oaths a screen for their murders. Thus they obstruct men from the path of God, truly evil are their deeds. That is because they believed, then they rejected faith, so a seal was set on their hearts; therefore they understand not. When thou lookest at them, their exterior pleases thee, and when they speak, thou listenest to their words. They are as worthless as hollow pieces of timber propped up, unable to stand on their own. They think that every cry is against them. They are the enemies, so beware of them. The curse of God be on them! How they are deluded! [quoting the Koran]

Respected editor of ETTELA'AT: I do not think it necessary to point out the importance of the responsibility of the press in a revolutionary Islamic government, and the necessity of adhering to its legal and religious obligations. It is only your commitment and awareness of this obligation that permit you to assume this responsibility. You definitely know that freedom of expression and the press are for the growth of the nation's Islamic and revolutionary thought and culture and are constrained by the interests of the government and their preservation. In other words, freedom of expression is not in any way a license to attack the sanctity of the Islamic revolution and its proud and very great achievements, or to insult the sacred values and aspirations of a revolutionary and aroused nation. I will not waste my words answering those who have rudely violated the limits of truth, fairness and civility. I appeal solely to your conscience. Part of what you published in the aforementioned article is as follows:

["The majority of the people of Iran have not forgotten the corrupt period of America's stupid and infuriating rule and the massinous vote of the wretched Maples to enact the imperialist Capitulation Law, and

they are opposed both soul and soul to American influence and domination. They have ended the government allied with America and its stupid rule. They have had years of better experience and have perceived the reality that the way to fight American domination is not by clenching fists and chanting slogans. What is meant by "years of better experience" is the years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

This empty claim, apart from the obvious contradictions it contains, not only questions the struggles of the years since the revolution, it has called all of them a loss. There is no need to speak of the faithful role played by clenching fists and chanting slogans, because a nation that has been able to end America's government and rule in Iran with empty hands, clenched fists and slogans is more aware than anyone of the weakness and nonsense coming from uninitiated spectators. Likewise, there is no need to repeat the esteemed words of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeini, may his grave be sanctified, concerning the greatness of the achievements of the Muslim nation of Iran throughout the years since the Islamic revolution. What a brave nation, that has struggled for years for the love of the aspirations of the revolution and has not hesitated to sacrifice its life, property and welfare for this purpose! It has tasted and felt the depth and greatness of these achievements both and soul. Perceiving these truths is difficult only for the blind and the deaf, who have crawled into their own narrow holes from the beginning of the revolution to today, and it is not clear with what hopes they have now lifted their heads from the hole.

2.—The article emphasizes that the way to fight America is not by saving death to America, shouting, chanting slogans, reading sermons and resorting to emotional acts. In war with such an enemy, blessed with enormous natural resources, limitless foreign exchange income, the best intellectual minds and the worst planners in the world of diplomacy in its service according to the article, the most ineffective weapons are emotional movements and great displays. The world in general and the Americans themselves have specifically acknowledged that these very so-called emotional movements have been able to bring two American presidents to disgraceful defeat, and have been able to destroy America's standing as a superpower throughout the world, on its borders in Latin America, in Africa, the Middle East and even in Europe. With these same movements, they have been able to thwart America's continuous and so-called wise plans aimed at overthrowing the government of the Islamic Republic.

Is not the publication of such immense and mockery a form of disrespect and ingratitude for the sacred and powerful feelings and emotions of the revolutionary nation of Iran? Don't these things come from the hearts of the supporters of America, which they could not really say because of their repeated defeats at the hands of the Islamic revolution? On the one hand the article calls American imperialism a deception for the reader, and on the other hand it says that the wealth of that nation is its

rest natural resources, and this is another contradiction or is at least seen as compounded ignorance in light of America's plundering of the resources of other nations.

3—The article scornfully states that the flood of anger has drawn such a curtain of blood over the tormented Iranian nation that the wise people of the world, hearing its cries of Death to America and seeing the consumption of cigarettes and vitamins there, laugh meaningfully at Iran. Who does the article mean by the wise people of the world, excepting the people of Iran, and aren't these sentences a clear insult to this same tormented nation? From the point of view of the author of the article, aren't the wise people of the world these very murderers of our children, or their agents? Haven't the scenes of the Islamic revolution been scenes of poetic feeling thus far, and hasn't this nation thus far put behind it the severe economic, military and political embargo of this very America, the vague reality of which so frighten the article's author? Wasn't it this very nation that kept the war victorious through eight years of shortages, and ended it by stabilizing the Islamic revolution and exporting it to the farthest corners of the world? Has it not won washing machines, electric sweepers and air transportation, this nation that has sincerely given its life, property and children for the aspirations of the revolution? Is it unreasonable and reactionary to disregard resources and material welfare to protect the aspirations of the revolution? What nonsense and delirium is this that in being given a voice in the crusade and sacrifice of our Islamic nation?

4—The article considers the eight years of sacred and victorious defense of the the revolutionary nation of Iran to be an evil, fruitless and impotence-causing war that was started up because of revolutionary hard-liners and perpetuated with shallow thinking. This article claims that due to the continuation of the war, the failure to employ the nation's forces for production and the lack of self-sufficiency with regard to American goods, no kind of success was achieved in the struggle against America, so that it has aroused the regrets of the article's author and wounded his nationalistic and patriotic feelings, and made him believe in a step-by-step policy in serious matters. No doubt the overthrow of the regime allied with America and the ending of America's domination in Iran, which the article's author himself acknowledges are also, in his mind, both the success of the Iranian nation and his lack of success. Can a war be called fruitless, when only a small part of its fruits were the victories of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, the awakening and uprising of the Muslims of Egypt, the uprising of the Palestinian nation in the occupied territories, the awakening of Muslims in East and North Africa, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh? Of course thanks are due to a writer who speaks ill of a fruitless, powerless, shallow, hard-liner's war and has thought of the interests of the nation. Of course people who have unwisely (?) fought for years to exalt the name of Islam ought to think about this writer's advice, and whether or not they have acted over these years for the sacred and exalted cause envisioned in

the article, and if they have not, they should explain the reason for their inaction to those who have been hiding in holes up until today!

5—Based on this article, the general spirit of Iran has perceived through experience that every uprising and revolution requires bloodshed and chaotic conditions, and therefore, in accordance with its peaceful nature, it has refrained from fermenting discord for the same reason, it is prepared to accept a tolerable despotism, a despotism that knows no limits or borders and brings things to the point of explosion. What is the meaning of this advice that since every uprising and revolution requires bloodshed, therefore one must avoid discord and adopt a peaceable stance? What does it mean, for the nation to tolerate despotism?

6—The article believes that following the latest speech by Mr. Hashemi, the respected president, a great many people have lost hope for the future, and at the same time this same group is a very diverse lot of gangs, quite limited in number. The article's author believes that in the years of the revolution persons with good reputations and specialist skills left the country, frightened by the insecurity and went to work at the world's most respected scientific institutions, and those who remained served in the nation's academic and specialist positions and, in the words of the article, complained and had no competence or merits. Therefore, if those who are our betters should return, what are those who have been running the country's academic and specialist posts thus far to do? Elsewhere in the article it is claimed that from now on things are to be done with integrity, and, for the sake of human dignity, there will be no more intrusions into the lives of the people. The nation will be managed wisely and justly, the unrest of the people will be quelled by opening the windows of confidence. From here on there will be a breeze of freedom blowing. Prostitutes in their gaudy and repulsive clothing will be relegated to the alleys and streets. Following that there will be cries of chastity, purity, Islam and revolution, and finally the author of the article says that he took to heart the words of Mr. Hashemi at the swearing in ceremony. With surprise, after years, he heard a leader exalt Iran and speak in terms of the limitations of his office, etc. What is the meaning of this characterization? Is it true that no official and not even the respected president himself has exalted Iran? Has no leader been mindful of the limitations of his responsibility?

Well the struggle against immorality and improper veiling henceforth be against reason and justice? Does the continuation of such a struggle mean that there will be falsely legitimate veiling, and that therefore struggling against it will be religiously unlawful? So far has the nation not been managed with reason, justice, propriety, respect and humane integrity, and this will only be the case from this time on? Has there been no sign of freedom in our society up to now, and whatever there was, was the product of dictatorship?

It is noted once more, does freedom of the press mean insulting history and the aspirations and principles of a great and divine revolution led by our late Imam, may his grave be sanctified, does it mean that people who have abandoned this nation during ten years of hardship and struggle by the Muslim nation of Iran and the giving of thousand of this nation's martyrs, wounded, bravery and prisoners, now have the right to question the achievements of their bravery, and even more, to ridicule and laugh at them? Who ever said that henceforth the Islamic Republic would abandon its aspirations, giving hope to writers who would like to return to public life? Is the martyr-nurturing nation dead, that it would allow such elements to run roughshod over the sacred heritage of the blood of martyrs? Is it not surprising that the newspaper ETTELA'AT calls such nonsense "deliberation" and "empathy with suffering." Does not anyone have the right to ask the nation's current problems and call it a response to the remarks of the respected president of the republic? The officials of that newspaper took great pains to print the entire unabridged text of that slanderous article insulting the Iranian nation's crusade of several years. Of course that newspaper would clearly answer that it has not endorsed any of the contents of that disgraceful article. Does the pretext of freedom of the press permit reflecting the views of the kinds of experts that newspaper has called "suffering people?" Is this what that newspaper means by loyalty to the revolution and seeking greater success each day for the revolution?

It is hoped that with a resumption of the way of thinking of the insiders and a comprehensive study, the repetition of such measures and harming the feelings of the people who are aware and loyal to the revolution can be avoided.

ETTELA'AT A prominent characteristic of a people's government is that it creates within itself a sound atmosphere for the criticism, study and evaluation of what it does, because no system anywhere in the world can be free of error, and clearly, the creation of room to breathe for various points of view can play an important and prominent role in the correction of errors.

Let them strive to attain this characteristic, for disregarding the views of the experts could seriously endanger any government.

That is because the best people and the youth of every nation, even with a bit of sympathy, never look for anything other than the interests of the nation and the country in their points of view.

The sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been and continues to be the beneficiary of the suffering and the efforts of Imam Khomeini (may his grave be sanctified) and the imam's nation, can only preserve the gains it has made so long as it does not underestimate the active role of the presence of the people.

The government of the Islamic Republic, as the most popular political system in the world, has always assigned a high position to the presence and the role of the people on the nation's decision-making scene.

The holding of a great many elections and the seeking of and viewpoints from the people in all matters, confirm this.

In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, likewise, in view of this characteristic, we see that that the framers of the Constitution saw a fateful role for the people, and in the area of rights for the people, they have said much in the area of the rights of the people, of the freedom of expression, freedom of the press, etc., within the framework of the sacred Islamic government.

This is because from the very beginning everyone believed that if we do not provide for a role for the people as it should be, we would deprive the government of the opportunity for reforms in the course of its life.

Naturally, with what has been said, every unit in the nation rightfully allows itself to speak and exchange views with regard to the most minute of the country's problems. If Martyr Bana'i was proud of having a cabinet with 16 million members and stood by that until the end of his life, it was because he considered that the people themselves had the right to take part in discussions that have a bearing on the life of the nation.

If we discuss and study the publication of the article "Point" by Mr Sa'adi Sarjani, we see that a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who also has a high level of learning, has properly assumed the right to break several years of silence and to express his views on the nation's important issues. Therefore he has used the newspaper as an important medium of communication, and as a bridge of contact with the people.

It is clear that the role of newspapers in the government of the Islamic Republic is not to publish whatever they wish and have nothing to do with the overall current of thought in society.

The newspapers are not the organs of a group, a clique or a political party, and it is their responsibility to publish all points of view alongside one another. The newspapers must give the people their natural rights. Likewise, the publication of the above article in connection with the publication of "Point" by Mr Sa'adi Sarjani gives an acceptable opportunity to the reader so that he himself may analyze and study.

The sacred Islamic Republic needs a flow of ideas, and this is one point, fortunately, in which all the nation's officials believe and stand by.

If the valued words of the esteemed brother, His Excellency Hajat al-Islam val-Mostafaei Hashemi Rafsanjani, the respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, creates hope for a listener—wherever it may be—and ultimately he breaks the seal of silence—perhaps

inappropriate—of several years. How should a police action react? In the "point" expressed by Mr. Sirjani, there was no deliberate insult to any of the values of Islam and the revolution, and with his belief that this sacred government must be preserved, he undertook to criticize and evaluate a period that, in the view of many government insiders, was not without cause for objection. If the newspapers were to practice self-censorship and consider themselves a hub for all the ideas in the government of the Islamic Republic, and the criterion for separating truth from falsehood, that is when they would be in error.

If we see the war as something imposed and contrary to values, we cannot deny its ugliness, even though the beautiful presence of a 20-million-man army and our armed forces glorifies the beauties of the populist life of Muslims in the defense of Islamic values. No one anywhere in the world can deny the ugliness of the disaster at Halabcheh.

It is clear that a strategic struggle needs strategic thinking. To struggle against the most fearistic and corrupt political system in the world—America—needs thought, thought accompanied by and coordinated with revolutionary action, in order to realize the hope of the "ideal" of the revolution.

We believe that a great many thinkers and experts who have suffered have not yet been able to repay their debts with regard to revolutionary values. To break the bonds of slavery with regard to the nation's most central values is a preliminary step on this path.

We must have ears that listen and the presence of different thoughts must be accepted. Like the leaders of this nation, we must be thinking of solutions to problems, not making them more complicated.

* Official on Rebuilding Power Plants, 5-Year Plan

Andarush Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
20 Aug 89 p.4

[Text] Economic Service—It is expected that in the current year more than 50 billion kilowatt hours of electricity will be produced in the country, 10 percent of which will be produced by the nation's independent networks, mostly located in the provinces of Khorasan and Sistan va Baluchistan. The remainder of the electrical energy will be produced by the national network.

Through the efforts of the personnel in the electrical industry, so far there have been almost no power blackouts in any of the nation's electrical production sectors (industrial and agricultural) and we hope, with the cooperation to come, that we will be able to provide these conditions to other customers.

The practical electrical energy production capacity for the nation's electrical power plants will reach 14,000 megawatts by the end of the current year [20 March 1989].

Engineer Mohammad Mollak, deputy minister of energy for electrical power and supervisor of the Iran Electric Organization, gave an interview to ETTELA'AT's correspondent. While announcing these matters, he mentioned that from the beginning of the current year to the middle of the month of Mordad [21 March-8 August 1989], 17 billion kilowatt hours of electricity have been produced within the national network, which is a 12 percent increase over the same period last year. He said: The largest consumption within the national network during the summer was 8,400 megawatts. Despite the fact that several large electrical production units were outside the circuit because of reconstruction and new installations, with the efforts of the tuning workers in the electrical industry we were able to produce more than 8,000 megawatts of electrical energy, and this figure is an 18 percent increase over the highest level of electrical energy production in previous years.

Noting that in the current year only one-fourth of the announced blackouts were carried out, he said: The shortfall of 750,000 megawatt hours in the first four months of 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] dropped to 190,000 megawatt hours in the same period this year.

According to the deputy minister of power, with the necessary cooperation from the appropriate authorities in the procurement of fuel and parts for power plants and with the cooperation of consumers in refraining from excess consumption of electricity, the Ministry of Power can procure consumer electricity for its customers without crisis or serious shortage, and reduce the blackouts to two or three hours on some days of the week. Engineer Mollak said that the national network's reserve capacity is 10 percent. He said: In an ideal network, the reserve capacity should be 35 percent to assure that it can take steps to procure power, yet in the short term it is not possible to increase the national network's reserve capacity, because the rate of consumption growth is faster than the growth of the rate of production.

Current Year's Credits

He said that the total credit in rials for the current year is 70 billion rials, 75 billion of which is in the area of production and 95 billion of which is allocated for the transport and distribution of electricity. He said: The foreign exchange credit for the current year in the electricity industry totals \$451 billion. One billion dollars of that authorization is intended for use by four special projects, the Martyr Razi Power Plant, the Western Power Plant, the Fars Power Plant and the Golan Power Plant. Likewise, the remainder of this credit includes an allocation of \$150 million for the production sector, \$100 million for spare parts, \$80 million for projects to expand transportation and distribution, and the remainder for reconstruction and building of electrical installations.

Reconstruction of Facilities

The deputy minister of power for electrical affairs noted that all the electrical energy production facilities damaged in the war are being rebuilt this year. He said: In previous years and in the current year work was carried out to rebuild almost all electrical power production facilities. There remains only one unit of the Neka Power Station with a capacity of 400 megawatts and one unit of the Ramon Power Station with a capacity of 300 megawatts, and these will be completed by the end of the current year [20 March 1999].

He added: The work of rebuilding the transportation facilities will also be completed by the end of 1999 [20 March 1999]. Likewise, the reconstruction of electrical distribution facilities has also been carried out, with the exception of the cities of Ahadai and Khorranshahr. Of course, through the efforts of our colleagues in the Khuzestan Water and Electric Organization, some of these facilities in Ahadai and Khorranshahr have been completed, the reconstruction of the remainder of the facilities will be carried out by the end of the year 1999.

Engineer Mallaki discussed the expansion of electrical production facilities. He said: By the month of Shahrivar [23 Aug-22 Sep], the Tabriz Power Plant will be fully integrated into the circuit. Likewise, a 200-megawatt unit at the Martyr Mohammad Montazeri Power Plant of Esfahan will enter the network by the end of the month of Mehr [22 October].

Two natural gas units at the Neka Power Plant with a capacity of 275 megawatts which are also being installed will go into operation this year.

He added: When these units are ready and with the repair of Bander Abbas Unit One and Unit Two of the Martyr Mohammad Montazeri Power Plant, the practical production capacity of the nation's power plants will reach 14,000 megawatts by the end of the current year [20 March 1999]. Of course transportation and distribution networks to match this capacity are also under construction by the regional electrical companies in the various areas.

Ministry of Power Five-Year Plan

The deputy minister of power said that during the five-year plan the capacity of the nation's power plants

will reach 20,000 megawatts, and he discussed increasing the production capacity of the hydroelectric plants in this plan. He said: In the second five-year plan, 5,000 megawatts will be added to the nation's hydroelectric production capacity. There is a total of 12,000 megawatts in new hydroelectric production resources in the country, but the current level of production in the nation's hydroelectric power plants is less than 2,000 megawatts.

Continuing his remarks, he discussed increasing the transportation lines from 41,000 kilometers to 45,000 kilometers, a 50-percent increase in the total length of the distribution and low-voltage networks, and the annual acceptance of 500,000 new customers nationwide during the first five-year plan. He said: The total allocated investment in the electrical sector under this plan is about \$7 billion and 1,500 billion rials, about 50 percent of which will be spent on production, the rest in the transportation and distribution sector.

He said that the full price for electricity without including investment costs is about five rials per kilowatt hour. He said: For household and small public applications such as shops this figure is more than six rials per kilowatt hour, while it is less than five rials for industrial and large commercial customers such as hotels, government buildings, hospitals, cruise facilities, and agricultural customers. The full price of electrical power including the investments of recent years is about seven rials.

Noting that electrical power is the foundation for all the nation's industries, social welfare and security, he stressed the necessity for self-sufficient management in the construction of power plants. He said: A company to install power plants, that will be able to serve as the principal contractor to build power plants at a specified time and at a specific price and quality, will be formed by the Ministry of Power in the next two months.

Likewise, a management company for power plant construction will be formed within the next year.

In conclusion, while offering suggestions to reduce consumption by the people, he stressed the need to standardize the implements needed by household consumers in this regard. He said: In this regard we are also meeting with the various industries to guide them towards managing consumption and avoiding waste.

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